



Mag *Dara's*

TY 2022
Issue 2

Annual



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the making

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Ventilation
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Welcome

Welcome to the St Mac Dara's Transition Year school magazine, Mag Dara's. This is our school's second edition of the magazine, run, written, and created by transition year students. Our names are Sarah Lawlor and Eoghan McNulty and we are the editors for this year's edition. Our team have put in a lot of hard work and devotion to this magazine, collaborating on many different topics that we feel you would enjoy. We have many amazing stories for you to read, such as our interview with rugby legend Paul O'Connell and stories from our local community.

There were 25 students involved in making this magazine, with a range of different jobs. We explored many different areas of working in this career such as writers, photographers, designers and much more. In this magazine, you can find a variety of articles that our group has created based on our interests and hobbies. Mag Dara's is a project that is fuelled by the transition year students who put in so much effort, and we believe that the variety of pieces we included will be interesting and enjoyable to you, the same feelings we had when we made this magazine.

You can find topics such as sport, movies, books, fashion and so much more. We had the chance to speak to past students such as Saibh Skelly and Charleen Murphy. Our articles cover many areas of interest from our school to all over the globe. We have been given so many amazing opportunities for us throughout this whole process and we would like to thank everyone who gave their time for interviews and supported our team, it really did mean the world to those involved.

By doing this magazine, we have been given the opportunity to learn about journalism. Everyone involved with Mag Dara's has learned about many different aspects of this career. We have also learned a variety of skills such as how to interview, edit, write and sell ads. We would not have any of this without the help of Linda Daly, a journalist at the Sunday Times. She agreed to come back and help us with the magazine. Linda was with us every step of the way and guided us on how to create our magazine edition. We would also like to thank Ms Denny who supported us through this journey.

We hope you find our work interesting and enjoyable. As a team, we have had an amazing time working on this magazine to share with you. Thank you for picking up a copy and we can't wait to return to you next year.

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Ventilation frustration

After returning to schools, we noticed how cold the classrooms were and looked into the HSE guidelines for opening the windows. Sarah Lawlor looked into the issue

Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, schools across Ireland have been taking necessary precautions to stop the spread of the virus. One such step was opening windows in classrooms. Classrooms have no other way to ventilate, and because of this, windows have to stay open.

Students across the country know how important ventilation is to prevent the spread of the virus, however, this thought didn't keep us warm through the winter months.

We asked students from St Mac Dara's what their opinions were. When asked if they felt the windows being open affected their education, one student said, "Yes, I can't focus if I'm cold all the time and I shouldn't be like that in the classroom. But I know it's for my safety." Another said, "Yeah, I think it does, it makes me not want to be there. For health and safety reasons though, I see why it's important. Wearing a skirt too, the cold really gets to me."

They followed up by saying, "I understand having windows open but opening every window fully all the time is a bit unnecessary." Students have been understanding, knowing that this currently is the

only option to stay safe and beat COVID-19.

It's not only students in these classrooms. Teachers have also been doing their job, teaching through the pandemic and following guidelines. One said, "Ventilation is important and currently there

"The HSE guideline for working temperature is 16 degrees, and it's really cold"

is no alternative." We also asked if they think opening the windows is affecting students' education, saying:

"Yes, definitely. The HSE guideline for working temperature is 16 degrees, and it's really cold. We are going to be doing this for a while more I'd say, maybe an alternative to opening the window can be seen

in the future." One teacher even said it affected their ability to teach, in wintertime. "When the warmer weather comes in, people will get more used to the windows being open."

We spoke to our principal, Mr Ward, and asked him for his opinion. "We must follow HSE guidelines, and that advice changes all the time. We must follow what we are being told by the government," he said. We also asked whether he thinks windows being open affects students' education.

"I completely understand that there is a lack of comfort for students, but also for teachers. COVID-19 is difficult to predict, and we follow what the experts say to keep us safe," he said. Whether windows stay open next year remains unseen. "The future is always changing, and we don't know where we will be in a few months," said Mr Ward.

With virus restrictions lifting, our school population isn't used to masks and social distancing disappearing. Ventilation, however, may still be required, and it isn't something that will be going away anytime soon.

Don't back down, Stand Up



St Mac Dara's took part in Stand-Up Awareness week. Eoghan McNulty looked into the importance this holds in schools across Ireland and why we celebrate it

What is Stand Up Awareness Week? The week is a time for secondary schools, youth services and youth reach in Ireland to come together and take a stand against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in our communities. This week, which is held in November, is an opportunity to take steps to make spaces safe and show support for young LGBTQI+ people.

Our school spent the week of 15-19 November educating students and spreading awareness, hoping to shed light on the importance of standing up for all members of the LGBTQI+ community. Each class was shown a PowerPoint designed by teachers; the PowerPoints included information about how to respect individuals in the LGBTQI+.

Homophobia, biphobia and transphobia is such a big issue all over the world. One in five young LGBTQI+ people sadly face bullying in their own school premises, and 75% of young LGBTQI+ students feel unsafe in school. That could cost young LGBTQI+ students their mental health, as well as their motivation for school to decrease significantly. People affected by this should not feel unsafe for just being who they are, which is why this week was created.

The mental wellbeing of young LGBTQI+ members is as important as any other student's, which is why St Mac Dara's has been so supportive of this year's Stand Up Awareness Week.

If you or any other LGBTQI+ students are being affected by homophobia, biphobia or transphobia, know that you are not alone-- there are many youth services you can contact for help.

"BeLongTO" (Capel Street), "Loving our Out Kids" (Strand Street Great), and "Tallaght LGBT Club" are some examples. Contact information for them can be found below:

BeLongTO: (01) 670 6223

Teni: (01) 873 3575

Tallaght LGBT youth club: (086) 286 5801





Our star in the making: A Saibh Skelly interview

Past pupil Saibh Skelly chats with Noah O' Donohoe about her music career and its evolution since leaving our school almost two years ago

A year ago, Saibh Skelly spent most of her days attending St Mac Dara's. Now you're more likely to see the 18-year old musician busking on the main thoroughfares of Dublin. Online, she has amassed over 100,000 followers on her Instagram and TikTok and almost 60,000 subscribers on her YouTube channel. Big things could lie ahead for this talented local.

How did you get started in music?

I started busking on Grafton Street when I was about 15 years old and I still busk every once in a while, but that's how I started out and then I started to do gigs and stuff from there.

What are your biggest influences?

Musically, they would be people like Ed Sheeran and lesser-known artists who I have listened to recently such as Holly Humberstone and Amazing Feeders.

Which of your songs is your favourite?

When I busk, I usually play cover songs and Ed Sheeran would probably be the most played song. Songs of his that I play include 'Tenerife Sea', but when I play gigs,

I tend to play my original songs. None of them are released officially

yet but one of them is called 'Having Fun' and that's my favourite song to play.

Where do you usually busk?

I'm usually outside Brown Thomas but I haven't been busking recently because I'm so busy. However, I'll always be at a good spot.

Is it a good location?

Yea, I'd say busking outside Brown Thomas is the best location, I think Grafton Street is one of the best spots in Europe to busk.

You've made a few music videos, how long did each of them take and did you enjoy the process?

Each of those videos took a few days. The first one 'Come Here and Leave Me Alone' took us just about a day to film -- from about nine in the morning to six or seven in the evening.

For 'Is Your Bedroom Ceiling Bored' we filmed one day where I was in the video and then they did another two days filming with some of the other actors who were in the video so that was a bit longer.

It was great fun. It was definitely a new experience. I had never done something like that before, it was really good fun actually.

Best part of being a musician?

It's probably when you're actually playing for people live and people are standing there listening to your music, and you can actually see that. It's not just numbers, like followers on Instagram and stuff, you can actually see how the people in real life react. It makes you realise that those numbers on Instagram are actually real people following you.

Any future plans?

Yea I have loads of plans I'm working on a million and one things at the moment, I am going back and forth to London writing songs, so hopefully by the end of this Summer, 2022, I'll have an original EP out with five of my original songs.

I'm recording with different people so I'm over to London in different studios there recording with some big, amazing artists and amazing songwriters so, I do a lot of the stuff with them.

Do you have any advice for other musicians?

My only piece of advice is, don't stop. Keep going and keep at it and if you want to do music, do music. Don't let anyone tell you that you need to do something else. Also, make sure that you're the one putting in the work.

The Sound of Transition Year

Noah O'Donohoe looks at his time spent writing and creating songs at Sub-Sounds and how he used his musical talent to make some funky beats

Back in October of 2021, the school began a song-writing workshop for the Transition Years. The workshops were run by Sub-Sounds, which provides these programmes for secondary schools of the South Dublin County. After the initial introduction the groups started on the production of songs. In my experience, it was fun to come up with different aspects of the song, and everyone got to try a different and new instrument, which was especially enjoyable. The people from Sub-Sounds, Elton and Ciara, were so nice and were great at giving advice and ideas to us for our song.

After Christmas, we were given the option to write another song, which we

did. One of the key differences was that for this song, we had inspiration courtesy of the Pixies' song "Where is My Mind". After messing around with the chords, we landed on a chord progression that had a similar vibe to the Pixies' song. At the time of writing, we are getting close to finishing our second song.

After the February midterm, we made a trip to the studio and got to record our songs. Everyone made a contribution to the recording, so it was great fun. Overall, I really enjoyed Sub-Sounds, and most people in the two groups did too. It would be great if this was a programme that continues on, and if future St Mac Dara's students get to experience it.



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Paul O'Connell: Off the pitch



Paul O'Connell is one of the most recognisable rugby players and coaches on these shores, after an illustrious career with Munster and Ireland. Here, he talks to Cormac Creighton, Zac Doyle O'Brien and Dylan Duffy about his time playing rugby, and offers some top tips

Did you always want to play for Ireland?

I played loads of different sports. As kids, the more sports you play, the more sports you will be capable of playing. That's important. All the footwork, the game awareness, the hand-eye coordination. Hurling, Gaelic, football, soccer, rugby, they all help each other. I played lots of different sports when I was young so when I went back playing rugby, I was able to pick it up quite quickly.

You left swimming for rugby, why did you choose rugby?

I swam a lot from the age of about four. Our training was Monday to Thursday after school. I kind of had enough of it by the time I got to 15 or 16. I'd hit a bit of a wall. Even though swimming is a great sport, it's not as social as rugby or other team sports. With rugby, I loved being in the team environment, slagging and supporting each other. I was missing that in individual sports.

You grew up in Limerick. What was the first team you played for?

Young Munsters was the name of my club. My dad, who is from Cork, moved to Limerick in the early 70s. He joined

Young Munsters, which became my family club. They used to run a seven aside blitz for kids and I started by playing in that. I played with the school, then came back and played with Young Munster when I finished in school.

Do you help coach at Young Munster or are you still involved in the club in any way?

I live near a real big club called UL Bohemian. I go and help there. I help with the senior team and a good friend of mine is the head coach at Young Munsters. I try and get down whenever I can and help them out. I really enjoy it; it's a lovely environment. The players are very committed. I enjoy going down there, I find a high standard of players and I can practice things I can also use on the Irish team.

Did you play with any professional players as a kid?

Yeah, I did. Back in the day, the way professional rugby worked was, you played for Munster, Leinster or Connacht. You went back to your club from time to time as well. I played with Young Munster as an amateur, but also was a professional. We would have played against the likes of Shannon rugby club who had John

Hayes, John Langford, Anthony Foley, Alan Quinlan, Peter Stringer. I got a lot of brilliant opportunities to measure myself against professional players, before I ever went professional myself.

What makes a good captain?

Being a good captain is all about how you make people feel. Certainly back in my early days, captaincy was all about holding high standards. I probably gave out to people a little bit too much and was quite harsh on people. I don't think it was the right way of doing things as captain or a leader. I have to make people improve, but I also must make them feel better as well. Sometimes in leadership, we talk about raising standards and pushing people. That's what it's about.

You have to be able to make people feel good about themselves as well. On the other side, what I found is that the best captains are involved. They made me want to be better not by being tough on me, but by, caring about me, wanting what's best for me and having a bit of fun too. If I knew someone cared about me, I generally listened to what they had to say. If someone knows you trust him and you care about each other, you can actually have really harsh, difficult conversations with



each other. Because you know, it's coming from a good place.

How would you speak to a ref as a captain?

Don't be over polite. You don't want to be a fake. But you don't want to be passive aggressive, you don't want to be abusive. You want to make your points firmly and fairly, and you want to be accurate with them as well; you can't be pulling the wool over the ref's eyes. Because when you're right he is not going to believe you.

As well as that I wouldn't speak to the referee that often; pick and choose a handful of moments where you want to be firm, direct and respectful with him. I didn't always get that right, as a captain. It's only when I really started examining myself as a captain and looking at guys that were doing well, there was no false politeness but they weren't aggressive either. They picked and chose their moments.

Do you have any advice for a young person, not just for rugby, but for someone trying to excel in any sport?

It depends how young you are. If you're very young, play lots of sports and have fun. You have to enjoy yourself and don't take it too seriously too young. The best young kids I see, around the ages of 11, or 12 are the guys that play hurling, Gaelic, football, soccer and basketball. They play

a bit of rugby, as well. As you get older, you have to watch a lot of it as well. Even when I coach on an under 12s team, I can see the kids who watch rugby, I can see the kids who know the game. I think that's really important to watch experts.

You can't miss practice and training either. You have to keep training; you have to keep working hard. The more fun that training is, the easier it will be to do and the easier it will be to do more often. You have to be fit in any game you're playing, too. You have to be super fit. You have to look after your diet and sleep. You don't want to be drinking too much. You want to be training hard to be fast and be mentally and physically fresh. When you play you can give it your best and you can enjoy it.

Do you have any advice for anyone who has a long-term injury?

I've a few bits of advice for someone coming out of a long-term injury because it happens in rugby all the time. We get them to make a video of all their best clips, put a bit of music to it so that they watch themselves playing and that fires your brain and fires the neural pathways. We get into visualise the little bits of your rugby player. If you can lie down in your bed, before you go to sleep, and visualise three good goals, the more you can visualise the field the better chance you have of firing the neural pathways. For young kids

that are getting involved, watching the games is really important, when watching the sports, you see what the best players in the world are doing. Sometimes when someone scores, it's good not to just admire what they did. It's good to ask why he managed to score? It's good to then wonder could I copy that or could our team copy that.

There are lots of things you can do when you have an injury, too. If you have a leg injury and you're playing basketball or rugby or Gaelic football, you can still hand pass the ball off a wall, juggle balls or bounce the ball off the wall. If you have a hand injury, you can cycle a stationary bike or go on a run. You can get fitter, even if you're injured. Sometimes guys get injured, and they take a break for six months and they let their brains take six months out of the game as well. But I think the guys that continue to immerse themselves in this are the guys that come back the quickest.

We have one more question for you, and we need an honest answer, does Donncha O'Callaghan use a sun bed?

He does, that's not a lie. He would actually go get a base before he goes on holidays. So, he's not starting from square one. He loves pulling the short shorts up as high as they can go. He is a funny guy, so obsessed with how he looks. He is going to have wrinkly leathery skin very soon I reckon.



Start your engines

Matteo Schepis looks at the past and future of Formula 1, giving an insight into how he believes this season will turn out

As the 2022 Formula 1 season has started, it is a good time to talk about last year's events. The fight for Formula 1 world champion was very close, so close in fact that the top two drivers, Max Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton, were tied for points. This was the first time ever that the champion decider came down to the last race of the season -- in Abu Dhabi.

Both drivers had 370.5 points each, this being the first time in a championship that someone got a half point. The season will go down in history for how chaotic and intense it was. After a crazy ending to the

Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, Verstappen led with Hamilton closely behind. In the end, Verstappen was crowned Formula 1 world champion of 2021.

So far, the 2022 season seems great and with a lot of team-on-team racing, which all the fans love. It looks like all the teams that still use the Mercedes' power train are very underpowered this season. Ferrari put a lot of resources early into their power train making it a lot faster but the differences, among them aero differences, are making the cars perform similarly and making races really close.

A good example of this so far would

be the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix on the Jeddah Corniche Circuit. If you look at the qualifying times, the differences were not a lot and if you look at the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix, Max was just able to win by half a second.



Triumph and defeat

After an eventful year of sports, Mia Clohessy looks at the wins and losses of our girls' teams

This year, Gaelic football, camogie, and soccer teams have experienced successes and losses. Unfortunately, Covid-19 has had a significant impact on the play of matches and training. Despite this, our teams have put in a gallant effort.

At the beginning of the year, the junior and senior camogie teams played against Dunshaughlin. They lost both games, despite putting in a great fight. The junior team then played against a secondary school from Meath and won, leading them to a semi-final against Maynooth. However, it also ended up in a loss for the girls, bringing about the end of their season.

A snapshot of some of the pitch side action: The player ran up the pitch, sliotar in hand. At that moment, we

were down by just one point. It was passed to another player and struck towards the goal. It all came down to this moment. Each player on the pitch was watching the ball. What felt like hours, was only a few seconds. Finally, it went over the bar. The referee blew the whistle. It was all over; the game had ended in a draw.

Football began with a disappointing loss. The team played against local school Our Lady's, but narrowly missed the win, although the coaches never lost hope in their team. Their final match against Holy Family ended in a draw; this made the Mac Dara's girls unable to progress further into the competition as they did not have enough points to proceed. Girls' soccer experienced remarkable success this year. The girls were winning their games with flying colours



and had no issues doing so. Their first two matches were easily won, and they conceded no goals throughout the tournament. They got to a Leinster final and won against St Raphaela's Secondary School.

IT'S RAINING CATS & DOGS

Sarah Lawlor looks into the many animals that don't have forever homes and encourages you to adopt a new furry friend

Many dogs are bought and sold every day across the island of Ireland. It is a big industry where people sometimes spend hundreds of euro buying pets. However, every day and week pets are abandoned, lost or taken from owners who do not treat them well. The DSPCA, located up in the Dublin mountains, has taken in cats, dogs and other animals that need to go to loving homes. They even rescue foxes, swans and ducks before letting them back into the wild. We decided to include some of the many household you can adopt today and try to help them go to a loving family. We couldn't include everyone in need of a new home, but if you are interested you can go to the DSPCA website, dspca.ie.



Meet Lucas the Staffordshire Bull Terrier. The DSPCA is unsure of his age but is still looking for an energetic family that can bring him on many adventures. He is looking for a second chance at a happy, cosy, and warm family that can give him a lot of love. Visit the DSPCA website for more information on adopting Lucas.



Meet Alister a domestic short-haired cat that is approximately five years old. When he arrived at the DSPCA, Alister was sick but is now back to good health. Alister does not get along with other cats and would like to go to a home with adults and older children only. He loves the indoors and has grown in both friendliness and confidence over the years. If you are interested in adopting this furry friend, check out the DSPCA website now.



Oradh is only three months old and is need of a new home. She is a very gentle cat and is still a baby, looking to go to a home for experienced cat owners. She is ready to learn to trust, although she is still unsure of new people. If you think you are the right person to adopt Oradh, check out the DSPCA website to register your interest.

Meet Tiffany and Rocksteady. These sweet collie cross dogs were adopted together when they were just puppies, so the DSPCA would like to keep them together. Unfortunately, due to change in circumstances, the original owner can no longer care for them. They are the sweetest pair, love walks on the beach and cuddling up on the sofa. They are both 8 years old and are suitable for children a home with young children. Can you give this sweet pair a forever home?





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Reinvent your wardrobe ...and your style

Ever open your wardrobe and feel like you have so many clothes yet nothing to wear? We are here to recommend some useful and versatile pieces to add to your wardrobe on a budget. We want to encourage people to be sustainable with the clothes that they have or want to buy. We encourage everyone to stop fast fashion. You don't always need to buy new and cheap; instead go to your local charity shop or Depop for clothes.



This band-tee is perfect for styling with anything due to its minimalistic colour palette and simple yet pleasant design.
€15.99, bershka.com



Both this skirt and Converse runners are simple and must-haves for any wardrobe. They can be reworn and paired with any and all sorts of different outfits.
€15.99, stradivarius.com
€90, jdsports.com

Quick-fire with Charleen

Charleen Murphy is a 22-year-old influencer and blogger from the local Templeogue area. Charleen started posting online four years ago after she finished school in MacDara's. Her Instagram account has attained 147,000 followers, while her YouTube channel has amassed 23,300 subscribers.

Did you always want to work in fashion and in social media?

Not always, I used to want to be a singer when I was younger. Then Suzanne Jackson, a blogger and owner of the Sosu make up and false tan brand, came into Mac Dara's and did a talk about blogging and social media. So, I listened to that and after, I was obsessed. I wanted to be that woman.

Where do you get most of your fashion inspiration from?

Pinterest, other bloggers, and just online or else seeing people on the street and on Instagram.

What's your favourite shop to buy from?

ASOS and Pretty Little Thing -- they are probably the two main ones.

What's your favourite designer brand?

Louis Vuitton; I have two bags and I love them. They just go with everything because they're brown, whereas my other designer bags that are colourful don't go as much.



This light t-shirt is fit for summer and pairs well with anything you have. €17.99, [asos.com](https://www.asos.com)

These charcoal-coloured Asos shorts should be the quintessential pair in any boy's wardrobe.

€14.50, [asos.com](https://www.asos.com)



This stylish pair of runners are perfect for day-to-day activities and match with nearly any other piece of clothing you own.

€110, [nike.com](https://www.nike.com)



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Spidey sensation

Joshua Curley dives into the world of Spider-Man in his exciting review of the new Marvel film, Spider-Man: No Way Home

Spider-Man is one of the most recognisable Marvel characters of all time. In both comic and movie form, he's been reimagined and rebooted several times throughout the years, from Tobey Maguire to Andrew Garfield and now our most recent Spider-Man, Tom Holland.

This is Tom Holland's third film as Spider-Man, and I believe it's his best performance as the character. Critics have rated this movie close to the top 50 rated movies of all-time, ranking 64th on IMDB and with a Rotten Tomato score of 93%.

The movie itself is without doubt the greatest movie in the Spider-Man franchise. It takes place directly after the previous movie, "Far From Home", which ends with super-villain Mysterio revealing to the world that Spider-Man is Peter Parker. The movie follows with Peter Parker having to live his day-to-day life after his identity is exposed to the world along with his girlfriend, MJ, and his Aunt May.

The movie continues with another Marvel superhero collaboration from Doctor Strange who tries to help Peter in making everyone forget that he is Spider-Man, but complications result in Doctor Strange messing up the spell.

Messing up this spell causes a butterfly effect which sets off the major events within the film.

Beloved characters from previous Spider-Man movies make their return to our screens in this film, eventually feeding into this movie's big twist. All fans, new and old can come together to enjoy this movie, regardless of age. It's a movie with a little something for everyone.

The plot is fantastic, and the film explores many different aspects of Spider-Man in its 2 hour and 28 minutes run-time. The cast is fantastic, with all-star greats such as Willem Dafoe as Green Goblin and Alfred Molina as Doc Ock. Each character is so different and the acting from everyone involved was amazing.

This entire movie had me shaking with excitement and I genuinely thought my heart was about to either stop or pop out of me—especially during its brutal and high-stakes action scenes. It is and will forever be noted as a cinematic masterpiece and is a must watch in my opinion. It can be enjoyed by people of all ages. I give this movie my personal rating of a 9.5 out of 10.

Our Top Flick Picks

Clueless (1995)

This is one of the most iconic and memorable chick-flicks in years, focusing on fashion, high school activities, and teen romance. It's easy to watch with its colourful and lovable cast, and is guaranteed to give you a good laugh, too.



The Devil Wears Prada (2006)

This is a classic. The Devil Wears Prada is an incredible movie to watch, featuring an all-star cast including Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, and Anne Hathaway. It takes you on the journey of the struggles of being the assistant of a demanding editor of a prestigious fashion magazine. Whether you're sitting at home alone or with the family, this is a great choice of entertainment for anyone.



Spirited Away (2003)

This animated movie may look unusual at first, but as you watch it, you'll realise the beautiful message it carries with it. The gorgeous animation and imagery in this film will spirit you away into a world of its own. This Oscar-winning film can be watched and enjoyed by anyone of any age and is a must-watch for any animation lover.



Us (2019)

This horror movie may seem cliché to some at first, but it doesn't fail to blow you away with its scares and amazing plot twist. Focusing on a family who gets attacked on holiday, this movie spirals into a world of confusion, suspense, and complete terror. This movie may be hard to watch for some, but horror lovers will rejoice at one of the greatest horror films of the 2010s.



The top book of 2021

Eabha Drohan looks at one of the top read books of 2021 and shares her thoughts on this award-winning novel

I first read "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" at the beginning of the year. I have read many books and I can honestly say it is the best novel I have ever read. Although it was published five years ago, the book continues to pique readers' interests as it circulates BookTok, Bookstagram and Goodreads. This book was nominated for two Book of the Year awards back in 2017, but thanks to social media, its popularity is more prevalent now. It was the third most read book amongst Goodreads reviewers last year and is still ranking at the top of Amazon's bestseller list.

This story follows Evelyn Hugo, the famous Hollywood actress. She is 79 years old and is finally ready to tell the truth about the glamorous and scandalous life she led. She recruits Monique Grant, a magazine reporter, to write her story. Throughout the book we flash between Evelyn's study, where Monique uncovers all of Evelyn's well-kept secrets, as well as the past, which is Evelyn's thoughts and memories as she remembers them. Evelyn is a fascinating person -- from her making her way to Los Angeles in the 1950s, to

then leaving the business in the 80s, having seven husbands along the way. She unspools a tale of ruthless ambition, true friendship and forbidden love. As Evelyn's story nears an end it becomes crystal clear why Monique was chosen to write the great Evelyn Hugo's story.

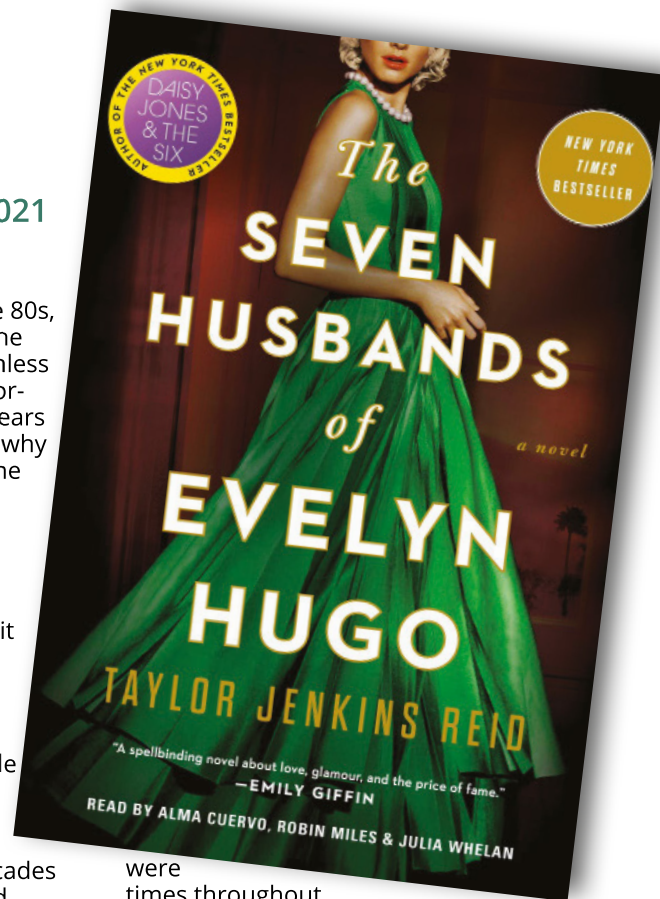
This book deals with an array of very heavy subjects which is important to remember before reading it. I would recommend it for 16 year olds and above.

It reads like a gripping, non-fiction account of a celebrity's life. Taylor Jenkins Reid's writing style is incredibly immersive.

It's a stunning and honest view on the world through many decades and how the world has changed.

If there is one book that anyone should read in their lifetime, it should be this. It gave me an insight into many issues that were faced back then and that we are still facing today such as homophobia, racism, abuse and poverty. There

were times throughout the book where I wanted to throw it across the room, and other times where I wanted to give the characters a hug. In the end, I believe that it's all those emotions that make a good book and showcase an excellent writer. This book certainly does that.



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To my 16-year-old self...



**“Work smart,
not hard”**

L Delaney

I’m writing to you as your 23 year old self -- but don’t panic, it’s less bizarre than it seems.

Looking back now, there’s so much I wish I had known at 16. I’m here to share a few words on what’s to come for you and to hopefully serve up some guidance that will help you through these next few years.

Firstly, it has probably taken me too long to understand the importance of being organised, from organising presents or for college assignments. Life is so much easier when you are organised. The sooner you realise this, the better.

I am now an engineering and tech graph teacher in Dublin. I got through the Leaving Cert and through University of Limerick going by the motto “work smart, not hard”-- remember that

We wondered what our teachers were like when they were 16 years old. So, Ella O’Halloran got Mr Delaney, Ms Denny and Mrs Galligan to share letters they wish their younger selves could have read

one, and when you get to college it will be hard but try find the right balance of work and play. It’s my first year qualified and I love Dublin and the school. I’ve got great people around me here and have received great advice. However, maybe don’t listen to Mr. O’Riordan. He will just try get you to dress up for hallowe’en for the “fancy dress day” -- even though there isn’t one.

Sport is still a massive part of my life. I’m still playing hurling and football. I have had lot of injuries along the way... a bad ankle break and a bad back. Try and fix your posture now! My advice when it comes to sport is don’t let nerves affect you in a bad way -- being nervous is a good thing before matches.

Don’t forget to be open minded, I’ve spent a summer in Paris which was absolutely unreal, I’m so happy I took that opportunity to work in an Irish bar over there, it was scary but worth it. I would love to do more adventurous things like that. My last bit of advice is not to take anything for granted, be it important time with people or simple things like playing hurling, you never know when a global pandemic may hit!

Liam



**“Comparison is the
thief of joy”**

N Denny

Dear 16-year-old Niamh, Where to start? It’s hard to think what I’d tell you to do (or not do), because really, everything you’ve done has led you to where you are now, which isn’t a bad place to be at all.

I suppose some general advice wouldn’t go astray, but knowing you, you wouldn’t

follow any of it anyway, but here goes:

- Don’t miss a Saturday visit to your grandparents. They are more important than you can imagine right now, but you will be glad of all that time spent with them in years to come. Listen to their stories and get all the hugs you can.

- Stay swimming a bit longer. It may feel like it cramps your social life, but really, those weekends at galas will be some of the best memories of your teenage years, along with giving you the greatest friends.

- Pay attention when Ms Reyes is teaching the subjunctive. You’ll curse yourself in college for being too busy talking to understand the sorcery that it is.

- Accept that you will never find the rave in the woods at EP.

The friends you have now are great, but the friends you have yet to make are also pretty special. People will come into your life, but now everyone is meant to stay, and that’s okay too.

Lastly, remember that comparison is the thief of joy. What goes up, must come down and failure is an inevitable part of life. You will learn more about yourself in the moments where you don’t get what you want, so pay attention and trust in yourself. You have a pretty great life, so take it all in.

Niamh

"Stop watching Buffy and Angel; vampires don't exist"

M Galligan



As a 16 year old, I loved school, reading Daphne Du Maurier, spending summers in the Gaeltacht and my spare time running and training with my club. That year I came second in the Schools Leinster Cross Country final and our team won. It was the height of my running career at the time, leading to the All-Ireland final.

I trained too much, despite warnings, even in the bad weather. As a result I developed a bad chest infection. The day of the final, in Ballybrit racecourse in Galway, my lungs let me down and I couldn't finish the race.

I let the team down and my chance at my first All-Ireland medal. My dad carried me to the car and I cried the whole way home. Of course the next year I would do it all over again and win, but at that moment, I felt my world would end. So what would I say to that Mary now?

Dear Mary:

- You can't control every situation but you can control your reaction to it. One event doesn't define who you become.
- Appreciate those around you, we all need a shoulder to cry on.
- Don't listen to people who say the Irish language is dead, it will survive and you will spend a career encouraging students to speak it.
- Stop watching Buffy and Angel, vampires don't exist.
- Keep reading; stories stay with you forever.
- Look after your skin; always wear sunblock, even in winter.
- Be kind to others, be kind to yourself and enjoy your youth, it passes too quickly.

Mary

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Aaron Dolan noticed all the wonderful wildlife that lives around our local area. He's given us some tips and tricks to help us look after the animals we encounter in Tymon Park



European robin

Robins should be fed wild bird seed. Robins and wild birds need water to drink and bathe in. Do not feed wild birds anything mouldy.



Mute swan

While Mute swans are generally calm, they can easily feel threatened. Don't get too close to them unless you are going to feed them.



Mallard

Mallards are the most common duck species in Ireland. Do not feed bread to ducks. The male has a grey and brown body with a green head, while the female is fully brown.



Moor hen

Moor hens feed on insects, seeds and fruit, they are easily distinguishable by their red beak. They look very similar to the Coot.



Grey heron

Herons are found around bodies of fresh water in Ireland. They feed strictly on fish.



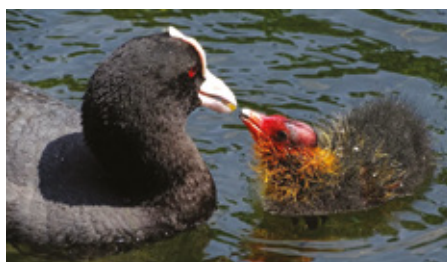
Grey squirrel

The grey squirrel can be found in parks across the country. They live in nests called drays.



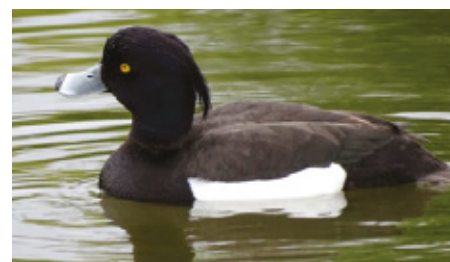
Brown rat

Brown rats are omnivorous, so they can eat anything. They are found all across Ireland.



Coot

Coots look very similar to Moor Hens but unlike them, they dive for food.



Tufted duck

Tufted ducks often dive underwater in search of food. They feed on waterweeds, seeds and insects.

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Written in the Stars

Katie Nugent and Hannah O'Dwyer discover the world of zodiacs and show you where the stars align with you



Aries

Characteristics: Independent, generous, enthusiastic, impulsive.
Most compatible: Libra
Least compatible: Cancer
Birth dates: Mar 21 – Apr 19



Taurus

Characteristics: Dependable, persistent, loyal, stubborn, lazy.
Most compatible: Scorpio
Least compatible: Leo
Birth dates: Apr 20 – May 20



Gemini

Characteristics: Versatile, witty, clever, devious, restless
Most compatible: Sagittarius
Least compatible: Virgo
Birth dates: May 21 – June 20



Cancer

Characteristics: Loyal, charming, manipulative, stubborn
Most compatible: Capricorn
Least compatible: Aries
Birth dates: June 21 – July 22



Leo

Characteristics: Compassionate, confident, dramatic, selfish
Most compatible: Aquarius
Least compatible: Taurus
Birth dates: Jul 23 – Aug 22



Virgo

Characteristics: Humble, practical, sensible, worrisome
Most compatible: Pisces
Least compatible: Gemini
Birth dates: Aug 23 – Sept 22



Libra

Characteristics: Fair, charming, flirty, indecisive, self-pitying
Most compatible: Aries
Least compatible: Capricorn
Birth dates: Sept 23 – Oct 22



Scorpio

Characteristics: Passionate, stubborn, independent, jealous, loyal
Most compatible: Taurus
Least compatible: Aquarius
Birth dates: Oct 23 – Nov 22



Sagittarius

Characteristics: Spontaneous, optimistic, friendly, narcissistic, judgemental
Most compatible: Gemini
Least compatible: Pisces
Birth dates: Nov 22 – Dec 20



Capricorn

Characteristics: Respectful, caring, ambitious, pessimistic, insensitive
Most Compatible: Cancer
Least compatible: Libra
Birth dates: Dec 21 – Jan 20



Aquarius

Characteristics: Independent, humane, impatient, lack of empathy, original.
Most compatible: Leo
Least compatible: Scorpio
Birth dates: Jan 21 – Feb 18



Pisces

Characteristics: Sensitive, empathic, artistic, overthinking, romantic, naïve
Most compatible: Virgo
Least compatible: Sagittarius
Birth dates: Feb 19 – Mar 20

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