

DCFE TRIBUNE

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DUNBOYNE COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

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Welcome!



Denis Leonard
Principal

You are welcome to the eleventh edition of our college newsletter, the DCFE Tribune, which brings you some highlights of the college year 2021-2022. It was a

year curtailed by Covid but we still managed to fit in many wonderful experiences, trips and achievements. We are delighted that through the hard work of our staff and students, Dunboyne College has always been a safe place to attend each day. Special thanks to everyone that has contributed to this edition and to our editor, Eilish Lavin, who produces and edits this publication.

Our main highlight this term was the visit of Ministers Simon Harris, Helen McEntee and Damien English on the 20th December. Also here on the day; SOLAS senior representatives, Department officials, our Board, our own CE and members of LMETB senior management, and senior officials from Meath County Council including the County Manager. During the visit Minister Simon

Harris announced that his department have set aside funding for a new campus building on a green field site for Dunboyne College. It will be a FET College of the Future design and will be the first of its kind in the country. We are delighted by this announcement giving us state of the art, purpose-built facilities. This investment is a testament to our staff, students, and the schools and communities we serve, who have put their trust in us for so many years to help us grow to 1000 students and become a centre of excellence for and learning in this region.

Dunboyne College is a college with a family atmosphere which gives students a wealth of learning, enabling, communicating, collaborating, and inspiration each day. We are proud of our staff, our students and their achievements. Dunboyne College, since 2003, has seen thousands of students pass through, gaining qualifications in a diverse range of areas, and progressing either to further studies at higher level, or going directly into the world of work. This year, in September, we welcomed 1,005 students, the first time we went over the 1,000 mark. Many are represented in this edition.

This year has seen record numbers progressing from our college to third level courses and directly to industry. Three

hundred and seventy-four (374) students received honours degree, Level 8 offers and two hundred and forty-eight (248) received a Level 7, ordinary degree offer. These figures do not include the many mature students who received early offers and those who took up offers in the UK for Nursing, Law or Sports degrees. In addition to these students, the majority of the students who studied on the vocational skills courses obtained employment, this is particularly relevant in the service and leisure courses.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and share in the many activities and events of recent weeks. Please keep an eye on our website, www.dunboynecollege.ie, and our Instagram, Facebook and Twitter pages, which will keep you informed of events as they happen. We will be taking applications right through the year until next September, given the year that is in it, and we hope many students will continue to join in the experiences of Dunboyne College, some of which you will find recorded here.

If you are thinking of coming to us next year, feel free to call in at any stage for more information on our courses and activities. You can always phone us on, **01 802 6577** or email; dunboynecollege@lmetb.ie; we are delighted to hear from you.

Short Courses Week

By Eilish Lavin

Assistant Principal I, Communications Teacher

We had another very successful, 'Short Courses Week,' this semester. With new students starting their courses, there is some essential, course specific training they need to carry out. These courses are the start of student's academic journey with us here in Dunboyne College. They are beneficial in accrediting students for skills they will need in their chosen fields. The short courses students complete during this time can vary from; First Aid Training, Manual Handling, Patient Handling, HACCP, Lab Safety, Communication and Customer Services, to name just a few!

Pre-Teaching Course

By Aoife O'Dwyer

Assistant Principal II, Pre-Teaching Teacher

During our short courses this week, Pre-University Teaching students participated in a course on, "Creating a Positive Learning Environment," which has been a great start to their year of study at Dunboyne College.

This short course focused on reflecting on their own learning experiences and how planning, positive relationships, high expectations, consistency, and the teacher are the cornerstones of a positive learning environment.



College News and Events

Dunboyne College graduates reach new heights in university offers

Editorial

Over 90% of eligible students who apply to the CAO from Dunboyne College of Further Education (DCFE) received an offer for a Level 7 or 8 course in Institutes of Technology or Universities. That is the findings of an analysis undertaken by the college of the progression pathways of its 2021 graduates.

Commenting on the figures DCFE Principal Denis Leonard says, "In a year interrupted considerably by Covid restrictions it is heartening to see so many of our graduates doing so well. In 2021 Dunboyne College graduates reached new heights with three hundred and fifty-one (351) students getting honours degree Level 8 offers and 209 receiving Level 7 ordinary degree offers. Many received third level offers at both levels with a total of four hundred and six (406) receiving at least one offer. These offers do not include offers made to mature students and those who received offers via the UK UCAS system."

Over 64% of Dunboyne graduates who received an offer via the CAO accepted a place with 76.4% accepting a Level 8 offer course.

The number applying to the CAO from the college has increased to over 500 which is nearly double what it was in 2013, according to Mr Leonard.



Mr Leonard believes that the high number progressing is due to the approach adopted by the college. "The flexible options in Dunboyne allow students to sample various modules in September to make sure they are pursuing the correct course choice. A one-year QQI level 5 course is an ideal way to explore an area of interest as well as using it to access a third level option. Students often do far better at further education level as they are now studying in an area of their passion and aptitude like nursing, sports, childcare, science or cookery rather than in the Leaving Certificate where Irish, English and Math's etc. are compulsory. By focusing on an area of study as well as gaining experience in a work setting, it allows students to see if they are pursuing the correct option before embarking on a four-year degree course or entering a career."

The Dunboyne College Principal believes that a FET course should not be viewed an extra year. "It is a year to explore what you really want to do, and a passport to make sure that it is possible. It gives students that confidence and the skills to embrace and continue on the road of lifelong learning. The evidence is very clear from the class of 2021."

Students Win Scholarships in Second Year of Scholarship Programme

By Irene Togher
Deputy Principal

Twelve DCFE students are the happy recipients of scholarships to reimburse their fees in the second year of the scholarships programme with local businesses.

The scholarships programme matches up a current Dunboyne College student with a company or organisation as that student's sponsor. The sponsor commits to, usually, reimbursing the college fees to the student upon successful completion of the academic year. Basically, each student gets a cheque at the graduation!

Ten companies took part in the programme

this year offering twelve scholarships for which students competed to win. The successful students were:

- Pamela Ryan, Nursing; • Katie Wheeler, Nursing; • Bernie Ennis, Office Accounts; • Stephen Collins, Graphic Design; • Juan Manual Hernandez Sanchez, Film and Media; • Anastasia Enciu, Journalism; • Sadhbh Reilly-Tuite, Science; • Ciara Quid, Equine Business Level 6; • Sophie McEntee, Tourism; • Daragh Daly, Music Performance; • Erin Quinn, Science; • James Capel, Science.

The ten companies involved are:

- Alltec Ireland, Dunboyne; • Lyons Financial Services, Dunboyne; • Bluebird Care, Navan; • Kelly O'Reilly Accounting, Enfield; • CJK Graphics, Dublin; • Stereosonic, Dunboyne; • Coffee Perfection, Dunboyne; • Shannonside Aviation, Dunboyne; • Synoptix, Celbridge; • Central Entertainment Bureau, Dunboyne.

The programme offers so many advantages to students like the opportunity to have their fees reimbursed for the academic year; the opportunity to form a relationship with a company or organisation in their vocational area and this may also translate into an opportunity for work experience or an internship and/or a reference for their CV.

For companies it is an opportunity to give a chance at education to a deserving student; to build relationships with perspective employees; to raise the profile of their business; and to become part of a community project with Dunboyne College.

Dunboyne College is now launching the scholarships programme for a third year and recipients will be chosen this month. See [MyDCFE.ie](https://www.dcfef.ie) for details.

Past Student Speaks during, 'Short Courses Week'

By Eilish Lavin

Assistant Principal I, Communications Teacher

Past student, Daniel Whooley joined us during, 'Short Courses Week,' to talk about his time at Dunboyne College and his progression since then. Daniel spoke of the difficulties he had experienced in education previously and how he reached a turning point when he realised he could try again by studying in Dunboyne College of Further Education. Daniel completed the Pre-University Arts course here with us.

Daniel has gone from strength to strength ever since and is now studying Cyber Security at TU Dublin, Blanchardstown campus. He is also Deputy Mayor of Fingal and continues to pursue his political career while studying.

Daniel's talk is still available to view on our YouTube channel www.youtube.com/c/DunboyneCollegeFE

Animal Care's New Arrivals

By Ashley Rogers

Animal Care Teacher

We were delighted to welcome two new and unique members of our student body this year. **Bertie and Freddy** are very popular and have put a smile on so many student and teacher's faces this year, making it much easier to settle back in to campus life.

Bertie and Freddy are here to help out in the, 'Animal Behaviour,' module covered by our Animal Care students.

Jersey Day

By Paddy Sullivan

Sports Teacher

We held our annual Jersey Day on the 08th of October this year, in aid of Goal, an important Irish charity for humanitarian aid. Students and staff paid €2.00 to wear their favourite Jersey into college. As always, it was a great success with over €200 raised for GOAL!

Trick or Treat for Temple Street

By Paddy Sullivan

Sports Teacher

Staff and teachers were asked to dress up in their spookiest attire in aid of Children's Health Foundation, Temple Street. The day was great fun for everyone who got involved and best dressed student and staff member even got a prize. Thanks to Rose in Rose's canteen for supplying a small prize for everyone who dressed up! The total raised for this charity on the day was €275!

Christmas Jumper Day

By Paddy Sullivan

Sports Teacher

Our Animal Care students organised a fundraising event this year in aid of D.S.P.C.A. Staff and students were encouraged to don their cheesiest Christmas jumpers on the day and dig deep to enter a raffle where there were lots of great prizes up for grabs. They also held a bake sale as part of the fundraising event with a selection of delicious cakes on offer. The event was a huge success and raised a staggering €1005.05.

Learning in Action

Healthcare Students

By Niamh Byrne

Healthcare Teacher

Our students enjoyed getting the opportunity to be practical in class this semester. Our healthcare students practiced putting on and taking off protective clothing in their Infection Prevention and Control module which is great experience for when they will need to do this in their future career.

Radio Students

By Rob Kelly

Assistant Principal II, Audio Engineering Teacher

The Radio Programming and Production module got out on campus using professional equipment to interview fellow students. Another great opportunity to get hands on and experience what their future careers could really hold for them.

Pre-Paramedic Students

By Terry Devine

Healthcare Teacher

Pre-Paramedic Students were practicing the Paramedic Log Roll in class with fellow students, under the guidance of their teacher, Terry. A practical skill they will need to be experts in when working as Paramedics in the future.

Computer Systems and Networks

By Maria McDonnell

IT Teacher

Computer Systems and Networks have been busy in the classroom this semester learning how to assemble a PC.



Learning in Action

Hairdressing Students

By Zara Sheridan
Hairdressing Teacher

Having begun their year practicing skills on mannequins, our hairdressing students were delighted to work on live models later in the semester. Another great opportunity to see what it will be like when they work as hairdressers in the future.

Pre-University Arts Students

By Orla O'Dea

Our Pre-University Arts students were treated to a live music session during their Folklore class, where the talented Matt Bashford played some traditional Irish Music. This experience enlightens students on traditional Irish music and instruments which they study as part of this module.



Sports Students

By Paddy Sullivan
Sports Teacher

Sports Management and Coaching students completed their GAA foundation coaching award with Jenny Rispin of Meath GAA recently. All students have now passed and received their award.

Youth and Community Work and Social Studies Students

By Rose Callan
Social Studies Teacher

Youth and Community Work and Social Studies enjoyed a visit from Emma Prunty from Jigsaw and Daniel Forde a volunteer from Jigsaws Youth Advisory Panel who gave a New Workshop recently. They explored what Jigsaw do and how to normalise mental health.

A very relevant talk for both groups which will prepare them for upcoming assignments.

Animation and Film and Media

By Richard Kelly
Animation and AutoCad Teacher

Our students were delighted to welcome guest speaker, Cole Delany, recently.

Cole has a huge interest in the History of Animation, which he has studied and documented for many years and he delivered a great talk on, 'The History of Animation,' to Animation and Film & Media students.

He also has his own podcast called, 'Any-Mation,' which explores animation and other film related topics. During his podcast, he has interviewed well known writers, directors, and various artists in the animation and film industry.

What a great opportunity for our students to hear from such a well-informed speaker in the area they are interested in pursuing.



Class Trips

Art Portfolio

By Bernie Leahy
Assistant Principal II,
Visual Art and Design Teacher

Our Art Portfolio class have enjoyed lots of great trips this semester. They visited the National Gallery of Ireland early this semester. They then went to visit the amazing award-winning Chester Beatty Library & Gallery, at Dublin Castle. They viewed the, 'Edo in Colour,' exhibition, the 50 Irish Craft Heroes to celebrate the 50th year of Design and Crafts Council of Ireland (DCCI). After that they had a life drawing workshop with a live model in the beautiful Georgian house studio on

Parnell Square. Finally, they visited The Hugh Lane Gallery in Dublin. It's been a very busy semester for the Arts students, and they are now exhausted with all the learning and culture! What a fantastic day, enjoyable and relevant semester for all.



Class Trips

Healthcare Trip

By Kathleen Murphy
Assistant Principal I, Healthcare Teacher

Our Health Care Assistants had an invaluable opportunity to visit a residential unit this semester where they gained an insight into the type of environment they hope to work in once they complete their QQI Level 5 course here at Dunboyne College. Having the chance to apply what they are learning in the classroom to a real-life situation really brings their newfound knowledge to life.



Trips to Newgrange, Battle of the Boyne and the Hill of Tara

By Orla O'Dea
Journalism Teacher

Siobhán Leavy
Assistant Principal I, Pre-Arts and Tourism Teacher

Some of our students enjoyed getting out to visit some of Ireland's top attractions this semester. Airline and Tourism students visited Newgrange and The Battle of the Boyne which facilitated them to complete assignments during the semester.

Arts Culture students also visited Newgrange and the Hill of Tara during this semester. A great opportunity to bring their learning in the classroom to life. They will now be able to bring their experience in to future assignments and will be better equipped to apply their knowledge.



Trips to Dunboyne Castle and The Battle of the Boyne

By Eileen Gilmore
Assistant Principal II, IT and Office Administration Teacher

Legal and Medical Secretary/Office Administration students had a great trip to Oldbridge, The Battle of the Boyne Visitor Centre and Dunboyne Castle Hotel and Spa where they got to observe the operations of a front office desk in a busy hotel. Students gained insight into the professional requirements to work in this environment and the standard paperwork and procedures to expect.

Another great opportunity for our students to apply their learning from the classroom to a real-life situation.

AIRE Equine Trade Fair

By Siobhán Cooney
Equine Teacher

Another fantastic trip off campus for our students. This time our Equine, Level 5 and 6 students travelled to Tipperary for the AIRE Equine Trade Fair in Tipperary Equestrian Centre.

This was a great opportunity for students to gain valuable information on services available in the industry. Looks like they had a great day!

Student Union News

A New Year for the Student Union!

By Eoin Roche
Student Union Member

Through the turbulent times of the past two years, there has one thing in Dunboyne College that has remained a reliable constant, the Student Union. This year has been no different for the college as two students were voted from each class at the beginning of October to represent their class. These representatives bring forward the questions and the opinions of the class to the student union in order to make the college a healthier and more enjoyable environment for the students.

This year's Student Union gathered together for their first meeting on the 10th of November on Microsoft Teams after college in which we held our in-house elections in which we appointed some key roles such as our chairperson, Cian Bagshaw and our secretary, Liam Prior, both have proved very successful appointments as they have conducted our meetings after in a very professional manner and have stayed in direct contact with the rest of the union to cater to any problems they might have.

We held our second Student Union meeting at the beginning of December, where we sought to solve some of the obstacles that students have been having at the college. These vary from students

having somewhere warm to go when they have no classes and support for people who may have missed classes due to them contracting the Coronavirus. There has also been great help from the Student Union for successful days for the college like the Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Saint Vincent de Paul and the Christmas Market, the union is also in constant discussion to maybe organise new charitable events in the college too!

The Student Union has proven very successful so far and will hopefully continue to do so into the new year.

Dunboyne College's First ever Christmas Market

Editorial

In line with our Finnish Erasmus partners, the grounds of Dunboyne College of Further Education were transformed into a bustling Christmas market on the 27th November, 2021. A huge amount of work was put in by students and staff alike, in the build up to this event.

The Christmas Market offered the ideal opportunity to kick start Christmas shopping and support local producers. There were over 30 stalls at the market with goods for sale varying from handcrafted crocheted items, honey, baked goods, dog treats and accessories, handmade Christmas cards, books, soaps and bath bombs, and many more.

There was hot food and drinks available, an elf school set up for children to experience some Christmas crafts and to receive a delicious ginger-bread person, baked by our very own Professional Cookery students, a brass band belting out festive

tunes which helped to add to the wonderful atmosphere and of course Santa was there to meet and greet the children.

The feedback in the community and from all who attended was that they could not stop talking about the quality of the stalls, the beautiful layout, the festive atmosphere, the great charity element, the hugely welcoming Elf School, the brass band, and of course the best Santa to ever come to Dunboyne, (and boy did he arrive in style!)

We would, once again, like to thank all of the staff and students of Dunboyne College for their huge contribution in the set up and running of this market and also the local businesses and residents for their support.



Green Campus News

One Step Closer Initiative

By Orla O'Dea
Journalism Teacher

The focus of our Green Campus committee this semester, was the, 'One Step Closer,' initiative in line with An Taisce and Green Campus Ireland.

The aim of this initiative was to help our college campus to get one step closer to sustainability. A link was available for students to click on and vote for a practical action we could take as a college. The options were; to see more recycling bins around the college, to plant 300 trees or to build a herb garden. To raise awareness of the initiative, The Green Campus Committee set up a stand where they distributed over 300 reusable cups and bags and encouraged students to cast their vote. The final result of the vote was that the majority of students would like to see 300 trees planted. These trees will now be planted both on and off campus by February 2022.



Guidance and Counselling

By Meabh Nimmo

Assistant Principal II, Guidance Counsellor

Derek Ball

Guidance Counsellor

The Guidance Department has been a busy place since the students joined the college in September. Meabh Nimmo and Derek Ball have provided a fantastic support system along with guidance and valuable information to students that are beginning a new journey after they have left school or decided to come back into education.

Students enroll in the college for many reasons, such as; to try out a course, providing a steppingstone to their next place, or missing out on Leaving Certificate points and their CAO offer, to name a few. No matter what the reason for attending, all students are facing a new chapter that requires support and direction. The Guidance Department provides support for new students in September and October around module choice and requirements for progression, which helps students to settle in. Some students present with confusion and are unhappy with their choice of course, so guidance is provided in moving the student to a different course, one that is a better fit for their needs and interests.

After the midterm break, the CAO

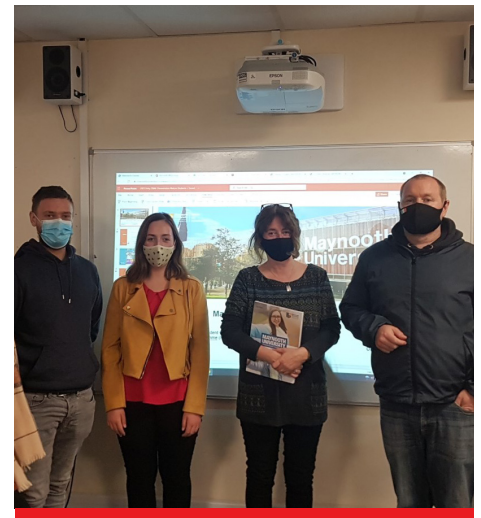
application process has opened and the Guidance Department deliver many information talks and organise guest speakers in relation to course choice, how to research and in making an application. Meabh and Derek also work one to one with students in assisting them through this process. Some students will be interested in making applications to the UK and European systems to study abroad and are supported in how to get started, making applications, researching and writing a personal statement.

A personal counselling service is an important aspect to the work within the department. Many students can feel very anxious or overwhelmed by starting a new course, a change in environment, the level of work or the assignments, have learning difficulties or other concerns. Students who present to the department or referred by a teacher are supported in a confidential and compassionate manner. Students find this type and level of support extremely valuable and it can often make all the difference to managing their college experience.

Mature students, those over age 23, are always very welcome to the college and bring valuable life experiences into the classrooms. Many have returned to education, after several years, which can

be daunting to say the least. To allow for peer support, a monthly coffee event is held which is reported to be very valuable. Mature students have also been offered CAO workshops to assist with the extra section that must be completed.

The Guidance Department also visit the many schools within our catchment area advertising what the college has on offer to the current 5th and 6th year students. This is an important part of the department's work as it allows for a great relation to be built up between the college and the schools, allowing for great progression numbers from schools to the college.



Student Voice

Why it is so important for college students to stay fit, healthy and organised

By Leah Doherty

Journalism Student

When it comes to the new academic year again, everybody stresses out. Students feel overwhelmed, anxiety starts to hit and then we panic. Staying organised throughout the year can be so beneficial to students. Being organised reduces stress, the feeling of being overwhelmed and you can be in control of your life by managing your time with your assignments. According to the University of People, "Staying organised will help you better manage your time. Rather

than spending countless minutes to find notes for class, you will be able to maximise the time you spend getting things done." Between trying to balance college work, your social life and work, it can be very difficult to sustain. We have all lived the nightmare of rushing to get an assignment completed right before its due. By making a timetable of the time you will spend on your assignments each day, will allow you to gradually get it completed.

People who exercise regularly and eat healthy are likely to perform better academically, says Apa.org. Eating a healthy and balanced diet accompanied by regular exercise is so beneficial for health and well-being. Studies show that just 20 minutes of exercise before studying can improve concentration and help you focus

your learning. According to Dwell student, exercise has been found to treat mild-to-moderate depression as effectively as medication. This will keep you in the right frame of mind during your learning.

Research has also shown that students are able to learn better when they're well-nourished and eating healthy meals. This has been linked to higher grades, better memory and alertness. Having a healthy and balanced diet is vital for students. Other studies find that improving the quality of students' diets leads to students being on task more often. What is most important to remember is looking after yourself before taking on this exciting and memorable journey!

Student Voice

Balance & The Student Lifestyle

By **Ríonn Cahill**
Journalism Student

College is a new chapter in a student's life. It can be a daunting but also exciting time. It's the first real sense of independence for young adults entering the big, bad world. They must have a source of income, possibly living away from home and take responsibility for themselves. With all this change comes a need to take care of your physical and mental health. These two go hand in hand. Everyone feels some stress and anxiety from time to time. This can be manageable at times and others not so much. But there are some simple steps you can take that are quick, easy and beneficial for your wellbeing.

Eat well – As a student it can be hard to find time to try cook a meal for yourself from scratch, as you could be tired or busy. The easier option would be to throw some hot water into a potnoodle and go by your day. But cooking a nutritious, quick

and cheap meal is easier than you think. A great place to find a step by step cook as you go videos are on Jamie Olivers '15 Minute Meals' on YouTube. He uses cheap and basic ingredients that is super easy to source from any local supermarket.

Take time – It's very important to have downtime as student lifestyle is normally hectic. Finding some time to chill out is key for your wellbeing. Meditation is super for your mental health. It's not as daunting or as hard as people think. There are '10 Minute Guided Mediations' found all over YouTube, which are free and easy to find. Just throw the earphones in, sit back and switch off from the outside world. I meditate once a day and I cannot explain how much it helps me in my daily life.

Alcohol - Finding a Balance – The best of craic takes place when there are a few pints involved. The pub or the club is a great place to let loose and socialize. But for every high there must be a low. I am guilty of having one too many and paying the price for it. Waking up the next morning on my death bed isn't something

that I enjoy. This knocks out your sleeping pattern completely. Motivation goes down the drain. Try reducing the amount of drink you are consuming, fit in a few glasses of water while you're drinking and stay away from the shots, they're the devil! The less you drink the less you pay for it the next day.

Knowing your limits is a strength not a weakness. Have the craic as a student and take care along the way!



New Horizons, New Paradise for Breaking New Ground

By **Oisín McCourt**
Journalism Student

You may have heard Italian production trio Meduza (or MEDVZA, if you're being more of a diplomatic person) and Irish singer-songwriter Dermot Kennedy serenading us about how there's a thousand miles between one person and the other in their recent 2020 release Paradise.

But when it comes to the latest addition to the highly successful Animal Crossing series of video games developed by Nintendo, there's no looking back in telling the difference between an island and a village.

As the proverb goes, 'It takes a village to raise a child.'

Rather than the tedious and bland routine of moving into a town that is already inhabited with villagers and suggesting

a name that will stand out to everyone, you're a castaway on a deserted island and assume the role of creating your own community from scratch.

To kick things off, you, along with two other islanders, are the buyers of the so-called 'Deserted Island Getaway Package', from a character in the game that already has backgrounds in the world of construction and estate agents.

With these two islanders, you can form relationships with them.

This can be the backbone to creating your community of uniqueness as time passes through the seasons of the hemispheres in your real-world location.

When you first arrive on the island, there's not a whole lot to do on it, apart from an airport for accessing multiplayer options and a tent that can be used for selling goods and crafting items from a workbench.

You must progress further by living your life to the fullest.

This can include catching insects and fish, collecting wood and minerals, and talking with your neighbours to get to know them.

You feel like you are tied to the limited reservation on the island at the start, but as you travel along the progression path, it puts you on the road to creativity.

As I play this game from time to time and not every single day, I find that I am given the freedom and opportunity to develop the island as I see fit in a non-linear fashion.

I didn't want a basic game that follows the same town-moving routine as its predecessors in the series, so having a desert island as its setting deemed to be much better.

What I did see, was a broad spectrum of variety available to me.

From the first day, I was happy to get the chance to be able to construct the island in my own way without doing one thing: following the instructions.

Dunboyne's Day Out at Epic

By Rachel Corroon
Journalism Student

On Tuesday the 9th of November the Liberal Arts and Journalism groups went on a trip to Epic, the Irish Immigration museum. The museum has been the first tourist attraction to win the title 'Europe's Leading Tourist Attraction' in the World Travel Awards three years in a row, most recently in 2021.

Upon arriving we were pleasantly welcomed as we gathered inside the doors of the museum. The first few minutes of the tour were guided and we were given our Epic passports and shown how to stamp them throughout the museum. From then we were free to set our own pace and pick and choose what we took an interest in.

Personally, I found that the format in which the information was presented was creative and accessible. The displays were presented through various mediums. My personal favourite was the drama videos with actors that I found allowed me to better engage with the material. There were also written and interactive displays such as the pub quiz and the, 'Who Dunnit,' game

which provided an opportunity to solidify the information.

Inspiring, saddening and motivating are all words that came to mind when reflecting on my experience at Epic. Learning about the achievements and accomplishments of the the Irish who came before us was truly inspiring. How they faced the hardships and challenges of the times really struck me. Hearing haunting stories of tragedies such as deportations and the famine was devastating. I found it a good reminder to practice gratitude and appreciate how far we have come as a country. In its entirety I felt that the experience left me with

a sense of responsibility to honour the history of our country and its people. With countless examples of the successes of our predecessors I felt motivated to work harder and further pursue my own interests to follow the standards set out for me years previously.

Although the passports were a fun addition to the experience, I feel that the attraction wouldn't appeal to young children. However, the colourful and artistic elements of the museum along with various mediums of presentation would be very engaging to older children. Overall, I enjoyed the experience and would

recommend it to both tourists and locals.



A Country Man Living Away from Home

By Daniel Rogers
Journalism Student

For nearly 20 years I have called Rooskey my home. Rooskey is a village on the River Shannon and is located on the Roscommon/Leitrim border. The village is home to about 564 people and it's the sort of place where everyone knows your name. When I decided what I wanted to do with my future, I applied to a few colleges for Journalism/Media courses around the country and of course Dunboyne College was on the list. Although excited, I knew it was coming to the time that I would have to pack my things and move away from home.

With my car packed and a new start within reach, I was happy to start my

adventure up in Maynooth. Moving in with my best friend made the transition from home life a lot easier and I got very close with my roommates. Eager and ambitious, I was ready to make a start and make friends. My first day of college was nerve wracking, going into a new environment with people I had never met before was very scary. I dusted off my social skills which had gotten a bit rusty over the lockdown and on my gap year and went in with a goal of connecting with my group. The Journalism group must be one of the most unique/diverse groups of people I've ever met, and we are all so close with one another. College life is fun although it is quite hectic it

has so far been the best part of my life. I wouldn't forget my roots and I couldn't, Rooskey gave me so many memories, whether that's working in the local shop and building my social skills with people or whether it was helping out in local projects or even just living at home in the countryside and helping out on my farm. I am glad to call Rooskey my home and hope is to move back after my studies. No matter where you go, as the saying goes, 'There is no place like home'.

Student Voice

Student Housing Crisis is a Crisis for us all

By **Kashmeera Poona**
Journalism Student

Financial hardships facing students in Ireland are at an all-time high. USI President, Clair Austick says that "Access to education is not about getting in the door...it's also about having a place to stay and that often gets forgotten about". This has been made clear by the increased need for food banks for students. The demand is higher than ever. UCC students Union reported that the food bank that they had set up to assist students who were struggling, ran out of food in less than an hour.

The lack of housing available is an issue but the lack of affordable housing is what is topical. Prices are so high students are having to resort to local hotels or B&Bs as a stop gap, which is just not sustainable. The issue is students' rights to an education are being violated because the fundamental necessity for a place to live is not being provided. Student's Union President of Waterford IT Rachel McCartney said one

in ten WIT students- approximately 1,000 are without accommodation.

These issues are forcing young people to look outside of Ireland for education or to go straight into work. However, in Ireland with prices on the increase it has become less likely to get a high paying job which, without a third level education, is necessary to afford to live comfortably in present-day Ireland. DCU President Daire Keogh said: "Demand is now far outstripping supply. This will inevitably create a family-income-based barrier for entry into Higher and Further Education".

The housing crisis facing students now has been an ongoing issue which has built over time. If not corrected the same challenges will be faced by future students. TD Richard Boyd Barret said that this "disease" has contributed to the wider housing crisis, referring to the exorbitant prices for renters, "It is completely pricing students out of the market of affordable student accommodation," he said.

With protests by students and parents from all over Ireland the issue has been made clear that the student housing crisis

is not just in Dublin, but it is a problem for Ireland. The Taoiseach Michael Martin commented that the Residential Tenancies Act was introduced to protect people including students, stating that Institutions of Technology can borrow money for additional housing and should apply.

"We will be keeping a close eye to ensure the third level colleges do not charge exorbitant rates to students," Mr Martin told the Dáil.



Student Life

By **Aodhan Tomkins**
Journalism Student

Starting college is a new experience with the students feeling overwhelmed and pressured at the start. Most people feel mixed emotions, being nervous and excited at the same time. Nervous because you are meeting new people and you are starting a new routine in a place you are not familiar with. You can feel excited because you are meeting new people who have the same interests as you and you will be getting a more specific idea on what job you would like to have.

For anyone who doesn't live near the college, having to take the bus to and from college can be quite daunting. I did not like getting the bus at first as I never went on the bus that much before college started so it was a big experience. But I eventually got used to the bus routine and had no problem having to get it for coming to college.

The difference between college and secondary school is another big transition for students. Instead of having subjects you have modules which are all related to your course. You start and finish college at different times unlike in secondary school and it's just a matter of getting used to a new regime.



Monday is the only day where I start early and finish late. I do not mind ending late on a Monday because some of my friends finish at that time as well and it is a great opportunity for a sneaky coffee in Frank and Honest.

Usually we can chat and relax after all the work and assignments that had come up in college.

New €42 million FET College of the Future Campus for LMETB and Dunboyne College

By Catherine Fox
Deputy Principal

Funding has been allocated in 2022 for the building of a new purpose-built college of further education for Dunboyne College of Further Education. The announcement was made by Simon Harris TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education during a visit to the further education college before Christmas.

Minister Harris stated that the funding has been allocated in his Department's budget and confirmed that officials from his Department and Solas, the state training agency, have met with LMETB to further the project.

The Minister was on-site in Dunboyne to perform the official opening of a specialised Sensory Room, which is designed to support students during their time in Dunboyne College. He paid tribute to the work undertaken in the college. "What I have seen here in Dunboyne is the most incredible college, a place of inclusivity of access and pride, of linkages with industry, the council, its community, with Maynooth University, TUD and DCU."

The Minister was adamant that a new College of the Future for Further Education and Training would be built in the Meath town. "I want to be very clear that the project is happening, there is allocation in the Department's capital budget and I want to work with all the stakeholders to make real and tangible progress in 2022 towards a facility that will be transformational for Dunboyne, for Meath and for Further Education. A new purpose-built college here in Dunboyne is a statement of intent that purpose-built modern facilities is the way forward."

Minister Harris acknowledged the efforts of his ministerial colleagues Helen McEntee TD, Minister for Justice and Damien English TD Minister of State for Business,



Employment and Retail in presenting the case for a new purpose-built college.

Welcoming her Cabinet colleagues announcement Minister McEntee paid tribute to the ongoing work in the college. "Dunboyne College is producing the next generation of workers in Dunboyne and what is important now is that we will have the space and the ability to grow and support even more students and the business and industry in this region. That is the goal and objective".

Commenting on the announcement Martin O'Brien, Chief Executive of Louth and Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) said that the project in Dunboyne is a pilot project that will pave the way for the development of Further Education and Training Colleges of the Future.

"The FET College of the Future is now confirmed today by the Minister, it is happening because of the pride that is in this college, the people that are here in this college and the relationships that have

been built over the past two decades." THE LMETB Chief Executive also thanked Ministers McEntee and English for leading the case for a new college in Dunboyne alongside local elected representatives.

College Principal Denis Leonard described the announcement as a wonderful day for the college and its students. "Over 8,000 students have passed through the college since its establishment in 2003, we have grown from 50 students to our present enrolment of over 1,000 students. We serve a demographic of over 400,000 in this region and the announcement today will ensure that this FET College of the Future will accommodate all that we currently offer. It will also allow us to expand our courses provision on-site and include Apprenticeships and Traineeships as well as supporting the growth of the community and offering the businesses and industries in this region the opportunity for upskilling and reskilling."

Dunboyne College Welcomes Minister Simon Harris

By Eilish Lavin

Assistant Principal 1, Communications Teacher

On Monday 20th December, Minister Simon Harris visited Dunboyne College to take a tour of our facilities. He was joined by Minister Helen McEntee and Minister Damien English, as they walked through our entire campus, beginning at the Hairdressing room and moving onto Nursing, Childcare, Animal Care, Professional Cookery and the Science Lab. Minister Harris and Minister McEntee visited the radio studio, where they took part in an impromptu podcast discussing their views on the importance of options in further education. They were joined by student, Stefano Gismondi, who told his own story of returning to education to complete his Leaving Cert as a mature student and his determination to pursue a degree in DCU. Stefano reinforced the views of Minister Harris and Minister McEntee, that further education has been imperative in this journey.

Following on from the radio studio, the tour continued to another vital area within the college campus, The Learning Hub. Educational Support Coordinator, Aoife O'Dwyer, and personal assistants, Sinéad Rooney and Gemma Finn discussed the importance of having a functioning support area for students that may require additional support during their learning journey. They spoke of how overwhelming the experience can be for many students and how vital it is that they are there to help break down the workload for students and make their educational goals achievable. Minister Harris was then asked to cut the ribbon and officially open a much-needed sensory room where students can now take a breather when feeling overwhelmed or when they just need to escape the hustle and bustle of the busy college.

The tour moved on to the college library next where Minister Harris could see the difficulties of supporting approximately 1,000 students to study in what is a very small room. Minister Harris stopped to talk to past and current students along the way, one of which was past student, Pamela Ryan, who had studied nursing studies the previous year.

Finally, the tour ended in the college canteen, again a relatively small space considering the number of students that need to be facilitated. In here, Principal Denis Leonard, spoke about his appreciation to everyone who came to visit the college that day and highlighted the many achievements of the college over the years since first being established in 2003. Minister Harris followed, acknowledging these achievements and also acknowledging how difficult they must have been in the current facilities. He went on to announce that the college can expect to get a new, purpose-built building in Dunboyne and that further education should no longer be seen as something that happens out of prefabs or in converted offices in a business park.

Staff of Dunboyne College were overjoyed with this announcement, so close to Christmas. We are looking forward to what 2022 and beyond will bring and look forward to seeing this new building become a reality for our students of the future.





Student Reviews

A showcase featuring some of the work our students have produced this semester.

The Velvet Underground And Nico – Album Review

By Leo Farrell
Journalism Student



There are many albums in history that are considered “ahead of their time”. In my opinion, the most deserving album of this title would be the controversial 1967 debut record by The Velvet

Underground, known for their seedy subject matter (such as drug abuse and prostitution) and experimental musical sensibilities, which included influence from both rock and roll and the Avant-Garde.

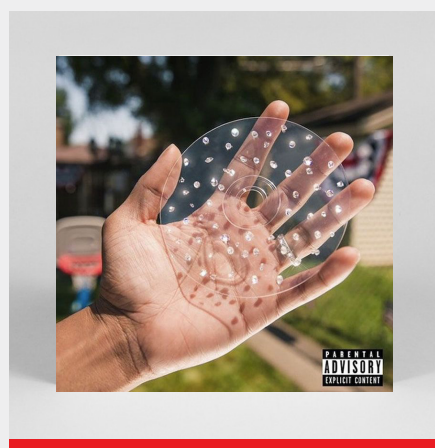
This first album, appropriately titled ‘The Velvet Underground And Nico’ (the “and Nico” refers to the German singer who performs on three songs on this project), is an absolute milestone in popular music history, well deserved to stand alongside The Beatles’ Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band’ and Pink Floyd’s The Dark Side Of The Moon’. Infamously a commercial failure upon initial release, the songs are incredibly varied, from the tinkling songs like ‘Sunday Morning’ and ‘Femme Fatale’ to the terrifying anti-pop droning of ‘Venus In Furs’ and ‘Heroin’ (the song, not the drug) as well as the classic pounding rhythms of ‘I’m Waiting For The Man’ and ‘All Tomorrows Parties’. The unique sound and scope of this record is exemplified by singer Lou Reed

and Nico’s deadpan vocal performances which paved the way for many streetwise and confrontational punk rock acts that would appear over the following decade. The usage of down-tuned instruments (including guitars) and the usage of an electrically amplified viola by multi-instrumentalist John Cale who had his background set from participation in the Avant-Garde scene in New York City.

I would also argue that this album foresaw modern day Indie music, due to the incredibly lo-fi and raw overall sound. In addition to this, there were alternate tunings and rough instrumentation which only strengthens the album’s immense charm and renowned reception and legacy, which has only contributed to making it a timeless classic for decades to come.

The Big Day – Album Review

By Ryan Mc Keown
Journalism Student



Do you know that feeling? When you start something new it could be starting school or a new job, you get that butterfly feeling running through your body. Well, that was me starting at Dunboyne College this year, I was a man of mixed emotions you could say. This is my story about starting college and I hope you can relate to.

Where do I begin? It was a cold frosty September; I woke up around six in the morning and put the kettle on. While sitting at my kitchen table different things were running through my mind like “What will my classmates think of me? Or “What happens if I don’t like the course I choose” Then it came the time to start my journey. On the bus this burst of positivity came over me, and I

began talking to people and we are now great friends and we talk every day. We arrived at the College and I went to my first lecture, standing at the door this feeling of nerves came back over me. I walked into the class and everyone was that quiet you could hear a pin drop and the ticking of the clock. The teacher then gives us a ten-minute break to get to know each other. I began chatting to my peers and we had so much in common and we all had the same worries and fears!

When it was time to head home, I didn’t want to as I had a great day. So, folks if I can offer any advice when starting something new just go for it....

Student Reviews

A showcase featuring some of the work our students have produced this semester.

A review of Rust – Game Review

By Joe Kramer
Media and Film student



Rust is a survival multiplayer game first released in 2013. The gameplay is brutal, unforgiving and you will die countless times to online players in the servers but will always keep you coming back. The game is set in a fictional universe where you spawn on a beach and make primitive tools and weapons to build a base. You must fight other players if you want to progress and eventually dominate the server with guns and raid other players bases for loot. This is where the game can be at its most fun, since risky actions can either reward you generously or instantly set you back hours.

The graphics are nice but nothing to write home about and the frames can frequently drop below 40. It can also crash on launch frequently. Despite all that it has a loyal following with the developers still regularly updating it.

On the downside, some of its community, will ruin the experience for everyone else with obvious things that most online games struggle with, (like hacking for instance) but Rust a bit more uniquely, is marred with voice and text chat abuse. Most people who do abuse the chat are not punished for it since toxicity is baked into the game from how highly competitive it is. This can leave a negative feeling in the player if they are unlucky in this factor. On the other side of things, the big focus on chat communication can make you new friends and allies and when you do have friends to team up with the game is at its best.

I would highly recommend this game to someone with dedicated free time to play, since the addictive nature of this game might make it hard to put down.

Chelsea Football Club Abramovich Era So Far

By Christian Mogildea
Media and Film Student



Chelsea Football club is a club based in West London founded in 1905 by Gus Mears and Joseph Mears but it was bought by a Russian billionaire that goes by the name of Roman Abramovich in 2003. Since the takeover of Abramovich Chelsea has been one of the most successful clubs in the world by winning:

Two Champions Leagues, Five Premier Leagues and Two Europa Leagues, and all this success came through the investments in players like: Eden Hazard, Didier Drogba, Frank Lampard N’Golo Kante, Michael Essien, Diego Costa, Claude Makelele, Petr Cech, and Ashley Cole. Abramovich also invested so much in the Chelsea Academy that is now highly considered as one of the best Academies in world football for producing young football players, which they ended up highly profiting from by selling them to other football clubs for high prices of money and in the recent years they graduated a lot of these youngsters to the Senior Team which has brought Chelsea great success.

Even though Abramovich invested a lot in the academy he invested more on just players that were already world class. Recent managers Frank Lampard and Marucio Sarri have given great opportunities to these young players, some of these academy players are: Mason Mount, Fikayo Tomori, Tammy Abraham, Callum Hudson-Odoi, Reece James, Andreas Christensen, Ruben Loftus-Cheek and Billy Gilmour. A lot of

this success didn’t just come through the investments of players and the academy it’s also about the manager assignments Abramovich has made. Some of the greatest managers Chelsea have had are Jose Mourinho who won Chelsea three Premier Leagues, Carlo Ancelotti who won Chelsea one Premier League, Antonio Conte who won Chelsea one Premier League and the current manager which is Thomas Tuchel who won Chelsea one Champions League.

Even though Abromovichi is one of the people we have to thank for all this joy and success as Chelsea fans we also have to thank Marina Granovsky for being a really smart Sports Director and doing many positive things for the club like transfers and manager assignments. Without such input they wouldn’t be the team they are today!

Dune (2021) – Movie Review

By Luke Cray
Media and Film student



Dune is one of the best science fiction movies of the past 10 years. With the failure of the Star Wars sequel trilogy to resonate with audiences in the same way the original trilogy did, Star Treks' decline in quality and the mass exodus of Doctor Who fans unhappy with the way their beloved franchise has been handled, the

science fiction genre has seemingly lost its way with the major franchises decline in quality. It was so refreshing to see a not only a competent science fiction movie but a genuinely great one.

Dune directed by Denis Villeneuve is an adaptation of the 1965 novel by Frank Herbert which was met with critical acclaim and became the bestselling science fiction novel of all time. Dune is set into the far future where humans have colonised the galaxy and humanity is ruled by a feudal system with powerful families vying for the emperor's favour. The story follows the Atreides family as their given lordship of the desert planet Arrakis the only known source of spice a substance used for interstellar travel and body enhancement.

Dune being a Denis Villeneuve film is a visually stunning movie. The epic shots of the barren desert landscapes truly giving the scope of the planet. Aging cities being slowly consumed by the sand. The mighty sand worms devastating the landscape with their monstrous size looking for any unlucky being to feast upon. It makes the world feel more lived in and realistic even though it is set in distant future.

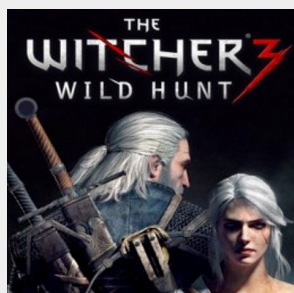
The performances are all great with every actor and actress giving it their best. Timothée Chalamet does a great job portraying Paul's vulnerabilities but also his hidden strength and will. Rebecca Fergusson gives an excellent performance as Paul's mother Lady Jessica a woman torn between her duties and her family. However, the standout of the movie was Stellan Skarsgård who gives a career best playing the antagonist of the villain Baron Vladimir Harkonnen. Any time he is on screen he dominates it with his presence, he is menacing and unsettling with his harsh gravelly voice and disfigured body. He is cunning and malicious willing to step over anyone who dares to step in his way.

The only main fault I have with the movie is the pacing and running time. The movie being 156 minutes does inevitably drag at times with some scenes unnecessarily long but due to the source material's length it is necessary in order to get us invested into the film.

Overall Dune is a triumph in modern science fiction and with the news of a sequel on the way we will be seeing more of this epic tale in the ensuing years.

Gaming Review

By Eoin Havern
Media and Film student



The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt (2015)

This game is incredible, the open world is huge and fun to explore, the writing is incredible and witty, the characters are deep and full of mystery, the combat is fun and each enemy has a various way to kill you. Geralt is one of my favorite characters ever and the graphics while a little dated are still a delight to look at

especially in Toussaint in the Blood and Wine DLC. This will always be my favorite game ever!



Left 4 Dead 2 (2009)

Left 4 Dead 2 is my favorite game on Steam and is the game I clock the most hours on. I love the writing, the characters are fun, the missions are diverse and memorable. The special infected and the infected in general are fun to kill and this might be Valve's best-looking game. The best part about the game is the community with mods and memes/videos on the internet



Borderlands 2 (2011)

Borderlands 2 is another personal favorite of mine on Steam and is my most played game. What I love about this game is the characters, the setting, the smooth gun play, the variety of guns in this game; my favorite is either the sniper rifle or the SMGs that work like grenades when reloading. While sometimes the story and writing can get a little goofy, I don't think every video game needs to be deep and depressing, it's nice to have fun sometimes.

Student Reviews

A showcase featuring some of the work our students have produced this semester.

Halloween Kills – Movie Review

By Dayna Matassa
Film and Media student



Is 'Halloween Kills' worth the watch? In my opinion 'Halloween Kills' is an absolute miss. As a avid lover and watcher of the Halloween franchise this movie did not move the Michael Myers saga further in the direction we all wanted to see. Despite the lack of progression viewers won't be disappointed if searching for a brute slasher film, great use of special effects and gore. This cannot be overlooked when faced with a confusing storyline and cinematography. Watching, 'Halloween Kills,' I felt as though I was watching a reboot of, 'Halloween(1978),' as throughout the entire duration of this movie it felt as if I was watching, 'Part 2,' of the original Halloween film.

The cinematography was lacking, it felt very 2-dimensional with a very 70s style with the use of shots that had been taking too long, cut too short,

too close and/or too far. Due to the cinematography feeling like it was being shot through a 70s movie filter, made it feel as though it was going to have a more nostalgic feel much like the original Halloween movies. However, the overexaggerated use of gore and lack of finesse and quick-thinking which we were all hoping to see more of made this movie feel extremely out of place from the franchise. While the cinematography and storyline would have made, 'Halloween Kills,' tolerable nevertheless the acting was almost painful to watch. Regardless of having actors/actresses such as Jamie Lee Curtis and Thomas Mann the acting fell flat and lacked that, 'wow-factor,' we would love to see during a thriller/horror film. For these reasons this film is a definite miss from me!

Last Night in Soho – Movie Review

By Ava Quinn
Film and Media Student



Going into this film I knew almost nothing about it; however, I left the cinema with a new outlook on life. Without a doubt, I would highly recommend anyone to watch this film.

According to Rotten Tomatoes "In acclaimed director Edgar Wright's psychological thriller, Eloise, an aspiring fashion designer, is mysteriously able to enter the 1960s where she encounters a dazzling wannabe singer, Sandie. But the glamour is not all it appears to be and the dreams of the past start to crack and splinter into something far darker."

Thanks to Wright's phenomenal taste in "old but gold" music and unexpected camera angles that spin you around like the characters, it felt like I was part of the film.

The well thought out use of songs from the 60s mixed into the modern world would easily engage older generations and have them glued to the screen in seconds. The music gives each scene an individual aura that communicates to everyone differently.

The abnormal and unforeseen camera angles do not give you a chance to adjust and take in the background. They do the

exact opposite and catch you unaware like the characters. Wright's abstract camera angles most definitely show us the picturesque backgrounds of London in the 60s and how it has changed today.

It goes without saying that I thoroughly enjoyed Edgar Wright's film "Last Night in Soho". In my opinion I believe that anyone, regardless of their age, would also fully enjoy this psychological thriller.

The Book of Lost Names, by Kristen Harmel – Book Review

By Azan Bari
Film and Media student



This is a well-written, emotional and fascinating read. Eva (the protagonist) is put through many tough scenarios. What makes this novel stand out among fictional world war novels is that its plot is extremely interesting and creative. It explores the idea of forgery and how it could be used to help those escape being confined and killed. Forgery was very subtle and one of the most popular ways for Jewish people to evade being caught out. I love the concept of having a secret illegal organization that's main vision, is to help Jewish people cross the border and avoid being sent to a concentration camp.

Harmel's writing is at its most powerful when more emotion is being conveyed. The use of constant questions about Eva's paranoia being stated throughout the dialogue is so well done and made me question the tragedy that Eva and

other Jewish people lived through. The pressure that Faiga (Eva's Mother) puts on Eva about being caught and the desperation to cross the Swiss border, made the flow of the story very unsettling knowing that they are uncertain as to whether they'll be caught and sent away and killed. Throughout the book, seeing Eva's development in intelligence and mastering forgery is greatly rewarding. We feel hope for her and her mother. I really enjoyed binging on this book as Harmel manages to tell a fast-paced and riveting story whilst having the reader maintain interest. The constant twists, emotive scenes and overall storytelling is well put together. This novel values the events that occurred within our reality and alternately shares a brilliant journey with a strong, creative concept that you don't see every day.

Is 'Room' Worth Watching?

By Caithlin McEntee
Film and Media Student



The film Room directed by Lenny Abrahamson is definitely worth the watch at least once throughout our lives, starting from the plot to the stellar performances in this film.

The plot of Room is quite heavy due to the emotional content given and is intense, making the viewers want to keep watching.

Brie Larson (Ma), who portrayed Joy Newsome is a woman abducted at 19 and kept in a room for five years with her son Jack. Brie Larson's performance in this film is phenomenal and breath taking because her outbursts were portrayed as full of emotion and were realistic. Her determination to perfect her role and bring her character to life was brave, from going on a strict diet to consulting with a trauma expert and avoiding sunlight.

Jacob Tremblay portrayed Joy Newsome's five-year-old son Jack who was born in captivity in a room in the abductor Old Nick's backyard. Jacob Tremblay's performance in this film was inspired and touching.

The soundtrack in Room is amazing, matching the film's mood and emotional content. Technically speaking the creativity of making the, 'Room,' appear larger compared to how small it really is, is fantastic. They use a long lens and keep the focus on the characters to make the audience believe it's not as tiny but throughout the film they change to a wider lens to show how tiny, 'Room,' is.

In conclusion I highly recommend the film Room (2015) as it is full of suspense throughout the film and has the viewers on the edge of their seats.

Student Reviews

A showcase featuring some of the work our students have produced this semester.

Skateboarding – Sport Review

By Richard Flynn
Film and Media Student



Skateboarding had always been something I wanted to get into. I would watch hours of videos on YouTube of people learning to skate and other videos of professional skateboarders such as Chris Joslin, Garrett Ginner, Nyjah Huston and Jamie Griffen. It always looked appealing to me and last year I was given a skateboard by one of my friends who also liked to skate. I was thrilled! I took the skateboard out with me the next day and started to push around and get my balance, I quickly realized it was a lot harder than it looked and was going to take a lot of practice.

I gradually lost my terror and over time I became more confident on the board and decided it was time to start learning some tricks. The ollie is the first trick most people learn and one of the fundamental moves of skateboarding. The trick

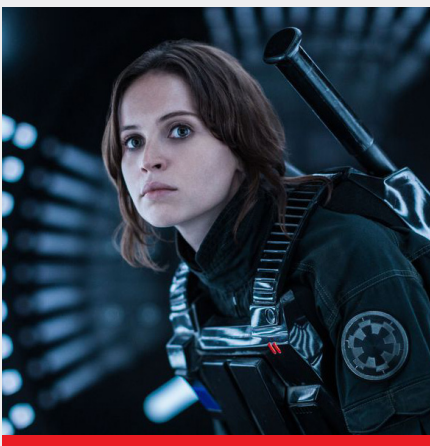
consists of popping the tail of the board and sliding your front foot forward and jumping with the skateboard this causes the board to jump. After watching multiple videos and practicing the ollie started to become easier to me and my confidence soared. This gave me more motivation to keep practicing and to learn more, I started going to skateparks and learning other more complicated tricks.

I am still skateboarding and really enjoy throwing my board down and cruising around, it is a great sport to keep yourself fit and an even better feeling when you finally land that trick you have been practicing for months! I recommend more people give it a go and experience skateboarding for themselves.

How Modern Politics Saved the Star Wars Prequels

By Ryan Fennell,
Film and Media Student

The last decade has been a turbulent



time for society. Lots of movie franchises were revived/rebooted, the world has taken a huge interest in politics, and people have started to show love for the infamous Star Wars prequel films. But what does this all have in common? Well, I would argue that the sudden appreciation for the notoriously hated Star Wars Prequels is largely due to this political turning point, and the presidential campaign of one Donald J Trump. Let me explain.

Sheev Palpatine is one of the most beloved characters in Star Wars. Played by Scottish actor Ian McDiarmid, he quickly became an iconic villain in cinematic history. However, it wasn't until the 2010s where this character mutated into an internet icon. In the original Star Wars films, he was portrayed as a vessel of pure ancient evil, with a hint of wit. Not much of his backstory was given at the time; it wasn't until the prequel films where we find out he started out as a respected ordinary politician who would ultimately manipulate his way to overthrowing galactic democracy and promptly becoming emperor of the galaxy. As interesting as this was, the trilogy's focus on "Boring politics" was

one of the main criticisms giving to the prequels. The general audience simply did not care for politics during the early 2000s.

Jump to the 2010s. In the United States, a politician by the name of Donald Trump had run for presidency of the USA. There were a lot of concerns about how he would run things – the absurdity of the situation was enough to stir a conversation. People had noticeably gained a sudden interest in politics worldwide, and I believe it was this change that would let people finally appreciate those films that once so unfairly criticized!



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