

DCFE TRIBUNE

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DUNBOYNE COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION

Issue 9 January 2021

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Welcome!



Denis Leonard
Principal

You are welcome to the ninth edition of our college newsletter, the DCFE Tribune, which brings you some highlights of the college year 2020-

2021. 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.

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.

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.

Record Numbers at Dunboyne College

By Eoghan Murphy Current student of Journalism, Digital Media and Public Relations



This year marks the first year that the student population of Dunboyne College of Further Education has surpassed a thousand students. DCFE has served the counties of Meath, Dublin and Kildare as well as the wider east Leinster area for 17 years. It might seem hard to believe that this busy college, with over a thousand students, had grown from just 54 students in less than two decades.

Started in 2003 to meet the rising demand for Post Leaving Cert courses in the Meath and Dublin area, Dunboyne College of Further Education offered only two courses, Business and Social Care, and

five teachers. On top of this, only former students from the local secondary school, St. Peter's College, could enroll and despite there being 40 students, there was only capacity for 20 in the two rented rooms of the Old School building, that was used to hold the new college's classes.

In 2005, they moved to St. Peter's College and added courses in Nursing, Healthcare, Sports and Marketing. However, these humble beginnings were not to last too long as, by 2007, the college had relocated to a bigger and better premise in Dunboyne Business Park and now offered 10 courses and boasted 180 enrolled students. Moving to the Business Park proved to be a wise investment as now the college was able to build and develop a canteen, library, learning hub, kitchen, lab and many specialist training rooms for the likes of Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy, Art, Nursing, Childcare and I.T.

This rapidly growing college would more than double its size again by 2010 with

its 21 courses and 382 students. By this point DCFE now took in students from all over the county Meath and north county Dublin area, with dozens of feeder schools in towns like Ashbourne, Maynooth, Navan and Castleknock. Now in 2020, Dunboyne College of Further Education has leased over 20 units in the Business Park and have over a thousand students in over 50 courses.

When asked what it is about the college makes him most proud, the Principal of DCFE, Denis Leonard said, "That students love to come here and feel they are welcome and supported in every facet of their development, that over 90% of those who get a full award here get a third level offer or a sustainable employment opportunity. I am also proud that we have attracted here such a dedicated professional teaching and support staff who put students first and are so generous with their time and expertise."

College News and Events

Short Courses Week

By Eilish Lavin

Assistant Principal, Communications Teacher

Each September, we start off our students' academic journey with a week of short courses that are beneficial in accrediting students for skills they will need in their chosen fields. These courses can vary from; First Aid Training, Manual Handling, Patient Handling, HACCP, Lab Safety, Communication and Customer Services, to name just a few! Undeterred by a new way of approaching education, particularly in light of Covid safety measures in place, our resilient students embraced this start up week and successfully completed their short courses.



Beauty Students Success

By Deborah Ryan

Beauty Teacher

Another successful group of students in the college were our Beauty students who were delighted to complete their Gel polish course with the manicure company. This was a great opportunity to work with a well-known organisation in the industry who insist on the highest level of professional service and products.



Smarter Travel Campus Awards 2020

By Clare Blackwell

Art and Digital Media Teacher

In October of this year, we were delighted to hear news of some of our 2019/20 students nominations for the prestigious, 'Smarter Travel Campus Awards.' These students had been studying on courses such as; Journalism, Creative Digital Media and Graphic Design. Well done and a huge congratulations to the following nominees:

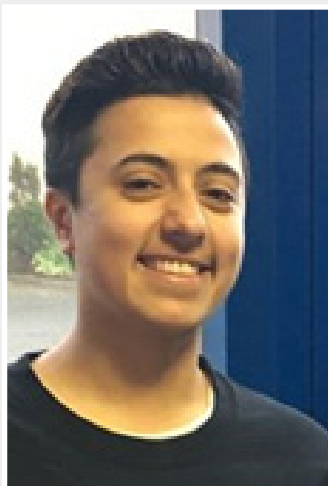
- Noel Shine who was shortlisted as a finalist in the, 'Multimedia - Graphic & Illustration category.'
- Aaron Carton who was shortlisted as a finalist in the, 'Multimedia - Animation category.'
- Hannah Shen who was shortlisted as a finalist in the, 'Multimedia - Animation category.' Hannah worked on this project with fellow classmates, Adam Whelan and Dylan Grehan.

And we can't forget, our very own, Geraldine Lane, was shortlisted as a finalist in the, 'Lecturers Award,' category.

This was a huge achievement for all students involved.



Noel Shine
Smarter Travel Campus Awards



Aaron Carton
Smarter Travel Campus Awards



Hannah Shen
Smarter Travel Campus Awards



Geraldine Lane
Smarter Travel Campus Awards

Short Story Competition Runner Up

'I cried, they did not care.' By Damian Pruszkows, Business 3 Student

Trick or Treat for Temple Street

By Susan Clarke

Assistant Principal I – Student Services, Music Performance Teacher

Our Annual Trick or Treat for Temple Street event was, as always, a roaring success. Thank you so much to all the students and staff that got involved with the fundraiser. A total of €257.84 was raised for this very worthy cause.

Prizes for best dressed student were awarded to Art students, Sam Pigeon who dressed as, 'The Joker,' and Kincso Veszi who dressed as a, 'Goth Witch.'

Best dressed staff member had to go to our deputy principal, Emer Cloak who dressed as a, 'Dalek,' in a very impressive, handmade Dalek costume!



Professional Cookery Students

By Gillian Duff

Professional Cookery Teacher

With plenty room for social distancing in our spacious kitchen, our professional cookery students are thriving and cooking up a storm each week in the college. Have a look at some of their mouth-watering creations here. We are very proud of their achievements!



Creative Engagement Programme

By Clare Blackwell

Art and Digital Media Teacher

Each year, the Creative Engagement programme encourages students to get involved in creativity, initiative and expression that complement learning in the arts, heritage and culture.

In 2019, our very own Film and Media students, applied for a grant from the Creative Engagement project and it was accepted!

The funding was used by students in the production of three short films;

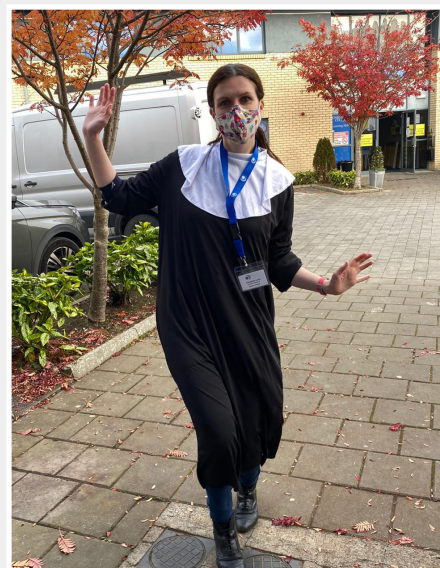
- Banana Bandit
- Communication is Key
- Old Days

The students worked very hard to complete these short films, with the final edits completed in March **during lockdown**.

We are now planning for and looking forward to taking part in Creative Engagement 2021, with more exciting projects in the pipeline!

Take a look at their achievements on the website below:

www.creativeengagement.ie/index.php/dunboyne-college-of-further-education-co-meath-2020/



Short Story Competition Runner Up

'No rehearsal, this is the gig.' By Orla Johnston, Child Care 1 Student

College News and Events

Science Week and Maths Week

By Cianán Courtney Earley
Assistant Principal II / Science/ IT Teacher

Science Week and Maths Week were celebrated throughout the college in November, with facts, quizzes and competitions each day. Congratulations to Jessica Suain on winning the maths week competition and Eva Himpers on winning the Science Week competition.



Animal Care News

By Ashley Rogers
Animal Care Teacher

Our Animal Care department have had a very busy first semester.

We had a four-legged student on campus this semester, puppy Lucy, who has been helping our Animal Care students in their Animal Behaviour module. They have been observing Lucy's changing behaviour through training being implemented for her.

Another, amazing opportunity for students of the Animal Behaviour module, was to observe photos and footage taken first-hand by Animal Care teacher, Ashley, when a visit was accommodated by Killian at, 'Wild Ireland.' We'd like to say a big thank you to Killian, for allowing Ashley to carry out research on wolves. This research will be used for both our Level 5 and Level 6 students who are completing a project on captive wolf behaviour for their Animal Behaviour module.

Finally, our Animal Care students put a huge amount of work into the annual Christmas Jumper Day which always raises much needed funds for animal charities in Ireland. As always, the Christmas Jumper Day was a huge success with many fantastic raffle prizes up for grabs.

In total, €630 was raised and this was divided over two charities with €300 going to, 'Save Dublin Zoo,' and, €330 going to DSPCA. Thank you to all the students and teachers involved in setting up this event and a huge thank you for all the generous donations made!



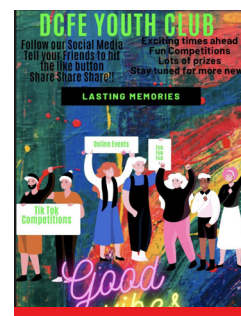
Virtual Youth Club for DCFE

By Rose Callan
Social Studies Teacher

& Áine Peppard
Student of Youth and Community Work

Our first ever virtual youth club as been set up by our, 'Youth and Community Work,' group this year. Why not check out their brand new Instagram page to keep updated with events they will

be running throughout the year. See their poster here for more information.



Dunboyne College Night Classes

By Kathleen Murphy
Director of Night Classes

Our Spring night class brochure is on the way, with a variety of interesting and enjoyable classes on offer, why not try something new for the coming year. You could take up a new hobby or improve your IT skills by learning the basics of Microsoft Word and Excel in our Microsoft Office or ECDL courses.

Check out our website for our latest night class brochure and see what options we have to interest you.

Night Class Brochure
Autumn 2020

Apply Now
Night Courses

Virtual Graduation 2020

Record graduate success for Dunboyne College

Editorial

Over 900 students graduated, in December, from Dunboyne College in a unique graduation ceremony. The virtual online event took place as the record figures for graduate progression and employment were announced by the college.

Dunboyne College Principal Denis Leonard revealed that CAO figures show over 90% of students who graduated from Dunboyne College and applied for third level places received at least one offer.

The Dunboyne Principal also announced that Dunboyne College is now among the top 5 largest colleges of further education in the country and the largest in the north east region. The demand for places at the college is out stripping supply.

Over 2,530 students applied for 1,000 places for 2020 entry. This is expected to continue in 2021 as new courses in Occupational Therapy, Software Development and Games Design, Animal Science and Pre-Apprenticeship Banking, Insurance and Financial Services were announced.

The college has already accepted several hundred applicants for places in 2021.

This figure is expected to grow with Virtual Open Evenings scheduled in 2021.

Mr Leonard said that the college felt it was very important to celebrate the achievements of the graduates. "2020 was a very strange year for them, a graduating class always has reason to be proud. But this group of students have added reason. They adapted very quickly to online learning and achieved great success despite the disruption to their studies. As a college we felt it was more important

than ever to honour the graduates of 2020 and their resilience in finishing out their course and progressing to Universities and Institutes of Technology and employment in such great numbers."

Drawing on the skills of its Film and Media Production department the virtual ceremony was broadcast live to graduates



and their families with an opening address by Mr Leonard, a summary of the student's academic achievements and their journey thought the year from Deputy Principals Irene Togher and Emer Cloak as well as a special address from the Minister for Justice Helen McEntee. In a series of three ceremonies the name of each graduating student was announced by the academic staff.

Mr Leonard revealed that Dunboyne College is represented in nearly every third level college in the country from Dublin to

Dundalk, Athlone to Galway, Waterford to Cork to Tralee.

These are the highest progression rates to universities and Institutes of Technology in the history of the Meath based college.

"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 offers.

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.

Reflecting on the success of the students Mr Leonard said that the Dunboyne College sends more students to universities and Institutes of Technology than the majority of secondary schools in the country. "The flexible options in Dunboyne allow students to sample various modules in September to make sure they are pursuing the correct course choice. Dropout rates for students who do a level 5 QQI course are less than 3%

on progression compared to up to 10% in universities and up to 33% on some third level courses for leaving cert entrants."

The Dunboyne Principal believes that the skills the students acquire will support them in their further studies. "As students also learn referencing, research and self-directed learning they tend to stay the full third level course afterwards, unlike many who go straight from leaving cert who are often not very sure of their options."

Green Campus Committee News

Dunboyne College Continues to Strive Towards a Green Campus

By Orla O'Dea
Journalism Teacher

With the addition of food waste and recycling bins throughout the college, we are continuing to make changes to become a more green and sustainable campus in the hope of attaining our Green Campus Flag. We have had flowers planted in the college grounds, in line with Dunboyne Tidy Towns Bio-diversity programme. If anyone has any suggestions as to how we can continue our pursuit, please [email: oodea.dbc@lmetb.ie](mailto:oodea.dbc@lmetb.ie)

Green Campus Committee

By Jack Sullivan
Current student of Journalism, Digital Media and Public Relations

Dunboyne college is going green! Thanks to the work of the Green Campus Committee, we are now starting to see incredible change around the college campus. I reached out to Eilish Lavin, a teacher at the college and member of the committee, to find out more about the goals and achievements of the committee. When asked about the environmental issues that needed to be addressed on campus, here is what she had to say:

"As a college, we use a lot of resources to light, heat and power the college and equipment such as computers. We also produce a lot of waste, for example, with so many people on campus at one time, there can be empty crisp packets, cans, and plastic bottles. A lot of paper is used throughout the college as well, for class notes, exams, and assignment briefs. I think some of the main areas to be addressed are reducing waste and being more conscious of recycling correctly and of switching off lights and equipment that are not in use."

To this up, the next question would of course have to be how exactly the

issues have been or will be tackled by the committee. There have been many efforts made so far since the committees founding a year ago. Eilish mentions that:

"Clearly labelled recycling bins are now located throughout the college, including food waste bins, which we did not have previously. We now make assignment briefs available through Moodle, meaning that it is not always necessary to have hard copies, unless required by certain students or class groups. Assignments can now also be submitted digitally, avoiding the need for students to print these as well. We have also had bulbs planted in the college grounds under the, 'All Ireland Pollinator Plan'."

Finally, I wanted to find out what kind of changes that the committee hope to see or already have seen because of these actions. She responded with:

"We have made all of these efforts so far, to highlight the fact that we are aware of our duty to be more sustainable as a college campus and to do our bit for the environment. We also hope that if students form good habits around being conscious of the environment while they are studying with us, they might take these good habits with them in their future studies and careers and continue to pass them on to others."

After hearing all of this, you can see all the effort put into making Dunboyne College and its community a much greener place. Doing this will affect not only the college, but the mindset of the people around. Helping others to understand the importance of recycling, saving energy and many other environmental issues. This is a step in the right direction for Dunboyne College of Further Education.

Smarter Travel – An interview with Clare Blackwell, member of The Green Campus Committee

By Darragh Crawley Doyle
Current student of Media and Film Studies

Can you tell me about the smarter travel programme?

The Smarter Travel program and Smarter Travel Campus initiative are run by the National Transport Authority and promote greener modes of travel and greener choices. The project focuses on promoting sustainable behaviour change through promoting positive messages about public transport use, walking, and cycling as alternatives to car use/single car journeys. Working with colleges across the country, the NTA aim to promote their message to young people and inspire change. More information available at <https://www.nationaltransport.ie/smarter-travel-workplaces/smarter-travel-campus/>

What use does it have as a part of the Green Campus Committee?

The Campus initiative focuses on third level and further education campus, DCFE recently became a Smarter Travel Campus and in doing so pledges to find ways to support and promote greener transport choices for staff and students. We have plans in 2021 to carry out a travel survey among staff and students and establish better facilities for cycling and information about local transport to and from the campus, among other areas.

We are a participating college in the Smarter Travel Media awards also, and

in 2020 had several students from Creative Media Graphics and Media and Film shortlisted for their projects in the categories of animation and graphic design, all of which responded to the Smarter Travel brief and created a positive message about greener travel choices. Getting to the shortlisting stage was a fantastic achievement for the students involved as the standard of work was very high, and third level institutions from all over the country were represented.

What changes would you like to see on campus?

I mentioned above cycling facilities would be a good area to concentrate as we look at the Smarter Travel Campus initiative, and promotion of lift sharing among car users we hope, will be a possibility as COVID-19 restrictions ease. Finally, I believe the actions taken by our students in the Green Campus Committee are crucial to effecting positive and sustainable change at DCFE.

Dunboyne College Green Campus Committee

By Laura O'Shea

Current student of Media and Film Studies

The Green Campus committee of Dunboyne College is made up of both teachers and students who are working towards a greener working environment. I was given the chance to talk to a member of the committee, Milica, in order to get a more in-depth and informative insight into what the committee is all about.

I wanted to know about the committee's aims and about the importance of this committee being in place. By speaking to a member directly I got a more personal insight into the work of a committee and what exactly it entails. By asking three, short, yet very important questions, I was given a greater insight into the role of a

Green Campus Committee member in Dunboyne College.

Why do you think its so important for schools and colleges to have a green campus committee and for students to take part?

I think that a green campus committee is important because it helps students and teachers in the college to take care of the environment; minimising the waste that cannot be recycled and getting recycled everything that can be. Our planet takes care of us, it gives us food and so much beauty around us, in every country in the world. I think we should take great care of it, as it is the only one we have.

When teachers set a good example, then students will follow. And that is very important, as they are the ones who are the future generation.

What issues concern you the most about the environment?

The one that I am most concerned about is waste. I firmly believe everyone should do as much as they can to keep the waste to a minimum. The same applies to schools and all other organisations. Taking care of our planet means taking care of us and our future.

What do you hope to achieve as a committee?

We just started in Spring 2020, so I think as a starting point the most important issue is recycling and waste management. After that I hope to see an increased awareness of making our college the most environmentally friendly place it can be, to work and study in.

From reading Milica's answers, it is clear to me that the members of the Green Committee have a passion for the wellbeing of our environment and are taking an extra step to ensure we are in a greener working and school environment.

“By becoming a Green Campus Committee member, you not only get the chance to work alongside fellow students and staff members with the shared passion of helping the environment, but you are also taking that extra step to work towards a greener life.”

Short Story Competition Runner Up

'Made paintings that stretched beyond canvas.' By Fatma Rahman, Beauty Therapy 2 Student

Student Voice

College vs Secondary School During COVID

By Danny Doyle

Current student of Journalism, Digital Media and Public Relations

This week I got the chance to interview Principle, Ms. Deirdre Maye, from St. Peters College in Dunboyne and teacher Ms. Zara Sheridan from Dunboyne College of Further Education, about how each college is handling Covid.

I posed the question to them about how different school life is under Covid. Ms. Sheridan believed that teachers don't get to have the same bond as they would usually with their students underlining, that it is, "Very restricted." Finding the college to have a, "Different atmosphere," and students, "Not being able to make new friends," because students are in on alternating weeks.

In St. Peters, "Teaching and learning is still happening, but the actual mechanics of

teaching and learning is different." Students no longer move from class to class but instead the school is, "Divided into different year group areas with students going in through particular gates and using particular doors." Covid has also stopped a lot of group work teaching within classes and every student must wear a mask, even outside, when social distance is not being followed.

When I asked about their thoughts on how students are coping with the situation as well as how their jobs have differed since Covid, Ms. Sheridan said, "I think they have coped really well with it," adding that the online classes can be hard for some. When you're in the classroom you're more, "Alert and more awake." As a teacher, "I have been working harder than I ever have before," teaching one class at home and one class in the college. She noted that the practical elements on the course were hard to juggle

because you often had to repeat it to the following class the next week.

Like Dunboyne College, Ms. Maye highlighted that the, "Atmosphere is different, and students have very little freedom." But although freedom is very minimal, "We (the staff) are doing our level best to keep wellbeing positive and have the odd positive event." She highlighted that after the nerves and anxiety at the start of the year by all the staff and students, the, "Students have been excellent, and the teachers have been great."

After conducting my research, it is interesting to see the comparison between a secondary school and a college. Seeing the differences and similarities between the two colleges highlighted for me the amazing effort being put in by everyone in such hard times, during a year that has simply been like no other.

Student Reviews

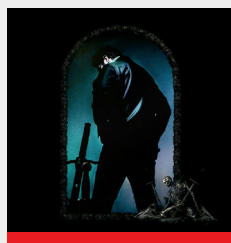
A showcase featuring some of the work our students have produced this semester.

Post Malone – 'Hollywood's Bleeding' Review

By Anastasia Enciu

Current student of Journalism, Digital Media and Public Relations

Rating: 8/10



Post Malone is enjoying one of the best years of his life this year. He is the King of the 2020 Billboard Music awards, where

he won 9 trophies in total, including the top artist awards. In melancholy, the controversial pop star always gets bogged down, but the appeal in his third album is in his flexible voice and his ability to hook us to almost every tune he releases.

We were given seventeen songs on

this spontaneous album. Some of the lyrics might seem maddeningly lazy, but Post Malone is confident that the tune is addictive. I might say more than half of all the new songs published are super addictive and can get trapped in your head for days. In these tracks, the choruses help you imagine and create stadiums in your mind as you listen to him perform.

Post Malone guarantees that other brilliant musicians are included, such as DaBaby, Future, Halsey, Meek Mill, Travis Scott, SZA, who are important to this young generation and are a fantastic addition to his music. He selected an impressive array of pop stars and rappers.

His song with Swae Lee, "Sunflower," reached No.1 at the beginning of 2019, which was the soundtrack of, "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," and it remained No.1 for a while. It is a powerful song with a lovely melody.

It feels that when composing his music,

Post Malone has two distinct moods: moody and cheerful. He groans about his ghosts and demons while on tour and how his life is now that he is famous. He makes sure to describe the desperation in the songs, "Die for Me," and, "On The Road." Some of the songs are very tragic, but they have a feeling of optimism, like, "Circles."

Personally, my top 3 songs from this album are, 'Die For Me,' 'Take What You Want,' and, 'Saint-Tropez.' If you've never heard an album by Post Malone, I'd really recommend this one. It does have explicit lyrics in parts, but it focuses on so many different things and you can feel his emotions and see his passion. He writes hit songs and is highly appreciated for that. For me this album should be rated an 8/10 as I like feeling a range of feelings and many songs are relatable to our generation.

Kodaline's One Day at a Time Album Review

By Cathal Evans

Current student of Journalism, Digital Media and Public Relations



Rating: 8.5/10

Kodaline have recently released their newest album, "One Day at a Time," after a 2 year wait from their last album,

"Politics of Living."

The feature song on this album, "Wherever You Are," has already gained thirty-six million listens on Spotify. The album comes seven years after their

breakthrough album, "In A Perfect World," that featured hits such as, "High Hopes," and, "All I Want," with the latter being featured in an episode of, 'Grey's Anatomy,' and on the, 'Fault In Our Stars,' soundtrack. My personal favourite song in this album would be, "Sometimes." The beat is quite up tempo and the song deals with staying positive even through hard times. The song has the feel of a traditional folk song before launching into a more positive up-tempo chorus featuring a ukulele throughout the track, strumming a catchy but simplistic tune.

"Everyone Changes," is yet another song that I enjoyed listening to in this album. Once again, it has quite a sad theme dealing with heartbreak and love falling apart. This song features English singer, Gabrielle Alpin, who's vocals work perfectly alongside Kodaline's

lead vocalist, Steve Garrigan. The instrumentals in this song, featuring a beautiful piano piece, really pulled me into this song and is one of the many reasons it has fallen into my personal playlist.

The final song in the album, "This Must Be Christmas," is a beautiful slow melody Christmas tale that really illustrates Steve Garrigan's powerful vocals. I feel this could become a Christmas classic with time.

In conclusion, I feel this album is just a powerful demonstration of Kodaline's ability to perfect their craft and it honestly is yet another must have album from the group.

Black Swan Review

By Nathalie Sturzel

Current student of Journalism, Digital Media and Public Relations

Rating: 9/10



'Black Swan,' is a horror, psychological thriller and drama, directed by Darren Aronofsky in 2011. The film follows the

daily struggles of Nina Sayers (played by Natalie Portman), a 20-something ballerina with a child-like personality.

When she lands the lead role in a production of, 'Swan Lake,' she struggles to find the Black Swan within her and can only ever dance the White Swan.

I was blown away by the film, most impressed by Portman's performance which led her to win an Academy award for best actress in 2011. The all-star cast also includes stunning performances by Vincent Cassel, Winona Ryder and Mila Kunis. There are not many films about the

ballet industry, and I find it fascinating that the film's storyline is influenced by Swan Lake. However, it is more about the preparation of the lead role and how it effects the actors behind the production.

Throughout the film we see a rivalry between Nina and Lily (played by Mila Kunis). Lily is new to the ballet school and Nina envies her because she can dance the Black swan perfectly. Nina develops an obsession with being perfect, begins hallucinating and slowly becomes crazy. In the horrific scenes, the soundtrack does an excellent job by using dramatic music that cleverly also feature in Swan Lake.

The camera and lighting frequently play tricks on us, for example when Nina and Lily are dancing in a nightclub, the lighting keeps on flashing from dark to the hallucinations of Nina as the Black Swan. At times, these effects may be overdone, however, the talent of the all-star cast saves the film.

This is a film that I have watched time after time, it never gets old and I'm even more blown away every time I watch it.

It's different from anything else you've ever seen before. All too often, we watch films that we feel like we've seen a million times because it's a repeated

plot, this is one that's completely original despite being set against the backdrop of the classic Swan Lake. If you like talking about and analysing films for hours with your friends after watching them, then I highly recommend this film.

Short Story Competition Runner Up

'Well, it started with that smile.' By Gillian Leahy, Animal Science Student

Student Voice

In the Mood for Another Re-watch

By **Alexandrei Del Socorro**
Current student of Media Film

Rating: 5/5



Film auteur, Wong Kar-Wai, at his best with, 'In the Mood for Love (2001),' a film considered to be his magnum opus. He collaborates,

again, with Hong Kong heartthrob Tony Leung and the gorgeous Maggie Cheung, whom he often cast in his movies.

A story of a love that never came to be, they yearn for one another but despite their mutual feelings their love never blossomed. Adultery has defiled their lives: his wife and her husband are having an affair. In 1962, Mr. Chow (Tony Leung) and his wife move into a compact Hong

Kong apartment, but Chow's wife is often away on, 'business.' His loneliness drives him to become acquainted with the beautiful Ms. Chan (Maggie Cheung). Their relationship deepens subsequent to the discovery of their spouses' affair. They often find themselves alone in their room but as the film goes on, their lives begin to intersect in everyday situations. This is beautifully shown in the, 'Corridor Glance,' scene.

This film is strongest in its visuals. Christopher Doyle returns as the director of photography, a frequent collaborator with Kar-Wai. The film has striking visuals with a plethora of colours that pop right out of the screen. The visuals have such a mesmerizing effect on you like a dream that lingers in your mind, even after a long time.

Kar-Wai is famous for his illustrious choice of music in his films. His music choices perfectly suit the visuals that accompany it. His films create an amazing amalgamation of

cinematography and music that make them unforgettable.

The movie's main song, 'Yumeji's Theme,' flawlessly expresses the film's themes and creates an atmosphere that encapsulates the characters' feelings and emotions.

The dialogue in this movie feels almost ad-libbed, but unlike mumble-core dramas of today, Kar-Wai has a way of making flowery, poetic language not sound pretentious. I simply cannot imagine this film with English speaking actors. The subtleties and nuances of the Chinese language would be lost in translation. Watching Kar-Wai's first Hollywood venture, 'My Blueberry Nights,' is proof of this.

In the Mood for Love is a beautiful tale of love that is told in such a poignant, mature and deeply profound way. It is a film like no other and perhaps we may never see something of its kind again, which makes this film a one of a kind.

FIFA 21 Review

By **Joshua Byrne**
Current student of Journalism, Digital Media and Public Relations

Rating: 8/10



This year, EA Sports have disappointed me more than ever before. I've owned every FIFA game since 2006, including

the World Cup and FIFA Street editions. It is with great sadness that I have made the decision not to purchase FIFA 21 and there are a number of reasons for it.

Although EA have added some refreshing features to their fan-favourite game mode, Ultimate Team, including customizable stadiums, it just isn't enough for me. I don't feel like I am

playing a brand-new game. Personally, I feel I might as well be playing FIFA 18, 'Ultimate Team.'

As bad as, 'Ultimate Team,' gets, its nowhere near as disappointing as, 'Career Mode.' Year after year, 'Career Mode,' fans all around the world get excited in the build-up to a new FIFA, in the hope that maybe EA will finally make some progressive changes to the mode. If you are a, 'Career Mode,' fan, you will know that these hopes are destroyed quite quickly after the game releases, as we find a, 'Career Mode,' menu almost identical to last year's one. In my view, this is the biggest let-down in FIFA every year. 'Career Mode,' has the potential to be just as good as, 'NBA 2K's,' "My Player." 2K Sports incorporate online and offline gaming into their variation of, 'Career Mode.' They improve and develop this mode every single year, and for die-hard football and FIFA fans, its

heart-breaking to see just how good our beloved mode could be if EA put the same work and effort in as 2K Sports do.

While there are game modes that hold a great deal of sentimental value and fond memories, like, 'Pro Clubs,' I just don't think FIFA is worth our money this year. I hope EA can revive their beloved game in next year's edition. For now, it is with a heavy heart that I have decided it is time to search elsewhere for gaming entertainment and begin my first ever, FIFA-less year.

Short Story Competition Runner Up

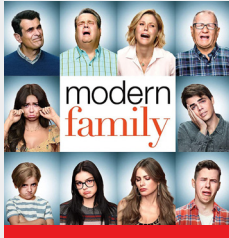
'2019, those were the days, right?' By Joanne Smith, Psychology 2 Student

Modern Family Review

By Máire Brennan

Current student of Journalism, Digital Media and Public Relations

Rating: 5/5



Plot: A comedic sitcom based on the reality of three modern families living in the suburbs of Los Angeles.

Hilarious insight into the life of three very different families that go through common

everyday struggles in their own unique way. It flourishes with its relatability as it is presented in a mockumentary style.

The three families are all related and are extremely close. The series portrays insights into different types of family including a blended family, a same sex marriage and a nuclear family. Episodes contain a meaningful message that is displayed through comedy. Each personality in the show contrasts with one another, which can sometimes lead to conflict that is presented in a hilarious way. Every time you watch another episode you get a deeper knowledge of the characters that will lead you feeling like you are a part of their family. There is never a dull moment from the very first

episode in the first season to the very last one in season 11.

The audience gets to grow up with the youngest children, Luke Dunphy (Nolan Gould) and Manny Delgado (Rico Rodriguez), as they started off on the show as children and finished the show as adults. The casting is perfect. In my opinion Ty Burrell, tremendously played the role of a father who was a child at heart and sees himself as a, "Cool dad." The beautiful bond that Phil has with his son is heart-warming and can sometimes be upsetting when you see Luke growing up and slowly drifting away from his father.

This series is a must see for the lighter side of life.

The Haunting of Bly Manor Review

By Romey Farrelly

Current student of Journalism, Digital Media and Public Relations

Rating: 5/5



The Haunting of Bly Manor is a new drama/horror original Netflix series released in 2020. Directed by Mike Flanagan, an American

director that would also be known for directing horror movies including, Hush and Ouija. Due to Covid-19, not many new releases have been put on Netflix, but this modern series is quite good. It is a follow-up series on the previous series, 'Haunting of Hill House,' and you might notice that most of the previous actors return, playing different characters in the new season.

It was given a rating of 8.2 by IMDB and the cast are exceptional. There are 9 episodes in the series, about an hour long each, and if you are looking for thrilling and creepy viewing, I would definitely recommend giving it a watch, especially if you believe in ghosts!

The new series is heart-warming yet terrifying and two of the main characters are very young, yet experienced actors. The actress that plays the character of Flora (Amelia Bea Smith, aged 9) and most commonly known for her ongoing role of Peppa from the British kids cartoon Peppa Pig, has a phenomenal performance for an actress so young, as well as the character of Flora's older brother, Miley (Benjamin Evan Ainsworth, aged 10). The series is based in the British 90s and it is ahead of its time for the main character Danielle, (Victoria Pedretti) and Jamie, (Amelia Eve) share a modern LGBT love life.

It all begins with Danielle applying for a job as a nanny for two children whose

parents have passed away. The house is set in the countryside and from the minute the characters arrive at the house you instantly get a creepy vibe and eerie atmosphere. The only characters in the series are either people who live in the manor or help out at the manor, so the cast is relatively small.

With a cliff hanger ending, you be sleeping with the lights on...

Congratulations to our Short Story Competition Winner

'It was that night, everything changed.' By Alex McGrath, Computer Networks and Systems Student

Special thanks to our staff entrants for the Short Story Competition

'That tree was hanging very low.' By Denis Leonard, Principal

'How many parachutes are left? One.' By Cianán Courtney Earley, Science/IT Teacher/APII

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