



It has been an amazing half-term. We returned after Christmas to the announcement that school would not re-open until February 1st due to the increase in Covid numbers in Ireland. Protections had to be put in place to ensure the safety of the boys which meant that the Castle and the College became their purlieus. Those who returned from overseas were initially accommodated in the Castle and then moved to the Talbot Hotel to facilitate their restricted movement programme. Online teaching returned through the Microsoft Teams platform.

Throughout all these changes to our routines, our boys and staff have remained upbeat, steadfast, and positive. Their commitment to their studies and care of each other has been exemplary. Good humour, laughter, patience, cooperation, and positivity have characterised their attitude. Flexibility and adaptability are essential. The boys are growing together standing up to the challenges that face them and the bonds that they are building will be a strength for life. Our Housemasters have shown their dedication and concern for the boys organising sports, talent shows, quizzes and just generally being available and in good humour. When the history of this era is written, the incredible strength of character shown by our boys will be a shining memory.

As Ghandi once said "Our greatest ability as humans is not to change the world, but to change ourselves." The Castle community has changed and reacted to the adversity we have faced, and we have benefited enormously. BE GRATEFUL for what we have.

We welcome to a new role Aisling Carr, our new Co-ordinator of Care, who is guiding us steadily and calmly through the various protections and procedures we must follow. She will be a source of support to us all and has plenty of experience in dealing with teenagers as both our Nurse and a busy Mum.

"If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" asked Shelley. As the evenings begin to stretch let us look forward to the future, re-establishing our family life, lifestyles, and our friendships, with a much deeper appreciation of what we have.

Mr MacDermott – Director of Boarding

ONLINE LEARNING IN THE CASTLE



6th Year boarders Sebastian Coleman, Lasha Asanidze, Seamus Ennis



6th Years hard at work during online class.



Fourth Year students Jonathan Liu, Vlad Sukhodolov, William Connellan and 2nd Year Carl Hattendorf focusing on their online classes.

CASTLE TABLE QUIZ



Team 1: Niall Smyth and Lenny Kuzmin 3rd Year William Connellan, and Vlad Sukhodolov 4th Year celebrating a successful round.



Team 2: Neils Govaerts, Liam Mills, Lasha Asanidze, Sebastian Coleman and Declan Smyth coming up to the final round.



Sean Shen 1st Year is celebrating a third-place finish in the quiz.

CASTLE TALENT SHOW



The Cracked Quartet: Niall Smyth, Iain McLaughlin, William Connellan and Lenny Kuzmin performing "Beautiful Girls" by Sean Kingston.



Richard Ainsworth and Sean Loh perform a dance routine.



Geoffrey Lande, Harvey Lavelle, and Jamie McMahon of *The Big Cheese* performing a dance routine.



Liam McLaughlin and Liam Mills performing *Ebony and Ivory*.



Mark Doyle, Seamus Ennis and Fionn Dougan a.k.a. *Millilitre*, *centilitre* and *Litre* performing.



Charlie Mullin and Ned Fitter the comedy duo '*David and Goliath*'



The final act the *Wolves of Williamstown*, John Cawley and Ben Harvey, performed a dance routine and won the competition.



Tony Rowe attempting a world record Burrito eating challenge supported by Ethan Connor.



Mr. McDermott then closed out the Night with a performance of *Country Roads*.



OJ Powell introducing *Prestige Worldwide*.

WELCOME TO THE CASTLE



Rory Sheil and Alex O'Keeffe perform an acapella *Sweet Caroline*.



Bruno Guji and Sean Loh