

Music

It's always great to hear our students performing. This year there seemed to be more opportunities than ever – assembly was full of music from Finn Conaty's Albatross to Finn Crockatt's accordion musings.

Always assured of an appreciative audience, the boys are generally unphased by their peers. Thanks to everybody who performed at an assembly this year. There was a lot to enjoy and I am constantly amazed at the standards attained.

The winter concert was a rip-roaring success. You can see the programme details in this section of The Griffin. Cancelled at the last minute due to extraordinary weather conditions which made the roads dangerous and the school inaccessible, we were thrilled to be able to entertain over 400 audience members at the end of the first week back to school. All in all, this event is a real highlight of the school year and it's great to welcome performers from Alexandra College also.

Battle of the Bands proceeded as usual with eight bands strutting their stuff on the school stage.

The choir had successful collaborations with Alexandra College again this year. First place in the William J. Watson cup at the Wesley Inter Schools' Music Festival and second place in Feis Ceoil really helped to cement our standards in the second term, while other successes included a third place in the Over 16's Chamber Music competition for William Doyle, Theo Foley, Finn Conaty and James Orr. Transition Year heard their compositions performed by a visiting string quartet, and the orchestra entertained the residents of Mount Tabor Care Centre and Nursing Home at the end of the summer term. The Guitar Quartet, under the guidance of Mr Freir, performed at the Transition Year Celebration night.

The PTA generously supported the music department in acquiring two timpani and a xylophone. The PTA's support has been absolutely central to our ability to equip the Music Department over the last number of years. Thank you to them.

Well done to all of the boys who participate in the huge range of musical activities we are able to offer in Sandford.

Jonathan Browner



Sandford Park Orchestra in Mount Tabor

On June 2nd, 2011, the Sandford Park Orchestra went on a trip to Mount Tabor Old People's home in Sandymount. We arrived to a very warm welcome, our bus filled with various instruments and a drum kit. At first it appeared that nobody was coming, but slowly and surely the old folks made their way in, with walking sticks, nurses and zimmer frames. Lots of people played, either in a group or as soloists. There were many nervous glances when David got up to play the drums, both from the residents and the nurses, but they heaved sighs of relief when it turned out to be a gentle blues piece, as opposed to something very loud.

Overall it was a great experience and, despite the odd shout of "That's good!" and "I didn't like that one" everyone performed well. We all left filled up with 7up and chocolate, feeling that we had done something good. Really, it was a great day.

By Fearghus Montague, IMB



Transition Year String Quartets being performed and recorded



India

Report by Marcus West, Transition Year

The dust clings to your skin, making you dirty all the time. The simple fact of walking on the street will leave your clothes with dark grey dusty marks. The fumes from the air leave black circles around your nose from the soot, and a constant smog lies over Delhi, making things 100 metres away look misty and ominous.

The sound of beeping horns always fill your ears, sometimes close and sometimes far, but there no matter what time of day. At night, you will see the homeless hunched around a small trash or paper fire, their old dishevelled blankets thrown over their back in a fruitless attempt to stop the cold of the night air.

Children come up to you, pointing at their mouths, hoping for some money. The old, lame and disfigured often join them, but the saddest are perhaps the lepers. Many are missing legs and so are unable to walk up to you. They just cry out for help, and then curse as you walk past. Their bandaged limbs with just a blood red stain on the end where an arm or leg should be.

The cramped conditions in the tuk-tuk or auto-rickshaw add to the fun, as well as no seatbelts and no doors. The correct side of the road is whichever looks fastest or least bumpy - this can lead you into trouble when you go the wrong way around roundabouts and when you're on a one-way road. The roads are scary but also something that you will love, a total disregard for road safety being perhaps one of the things I found most enjoyable.

The rattling of the train is constant, the third class seats are old and stained. The train flies past the stunning yellow mustard seed fields, the field's yellow occasionally being broken by the vibrant colours of

women in saris tending the fields. After an hour of sitting in cramped conditions, you start getting restless. The young family opposite share a small dish of what looks like raisins. They each barely get a mouthful, and young children sit quietly in the seats hardly even talking. I offer them a biscuit and they take one. A small smile lights up the face of the little girl as she bites into the biscuit, a rare delight for a child in India. The family offer me dinner at their house, a gesture of such trust and goodwill, something practically unheard of in this country. Regretfully, I had to decline, as my immune system would not be not used to the hygiene of Indian homecooking, or lack of hygiene rather.

The cold bitter early morning wind in the Himalayan mountains makes me shiver. I watch as the sun slowly rises in the sky, the rays just beginning to hit the tops of the mountains. The sun slowly lights up the mountains, but soon the deep mist that had been in the Kathmandu valley begins to rise, blinding us in a beautiful white mist.

A small candle floats in the water, resting on a leaf bowl. Making a wish, I put another in the cold waters of the Ganges. It floats past the boat like the others. It is promised that if the candle reaches the bank on either side the wish will come true. I put in another and another. Soon there is a line of flickering candles ablaze in the water. A woman puts her candle in the water and it joins mine. The calming beauty of it leaves me taken aback. I watch as the candles float away into the distance.

The Taj Mahal's white marble minarets tower over me, and the magnificent structure leaves me in awe. The marble is inlaid with the words of the Qur'an. Hawks soar above it, the wide arcs adding to the drama of the building. The Taj Mahal seems

to emanate calm and soothing, with the river beside it adding to the building's grandeur.

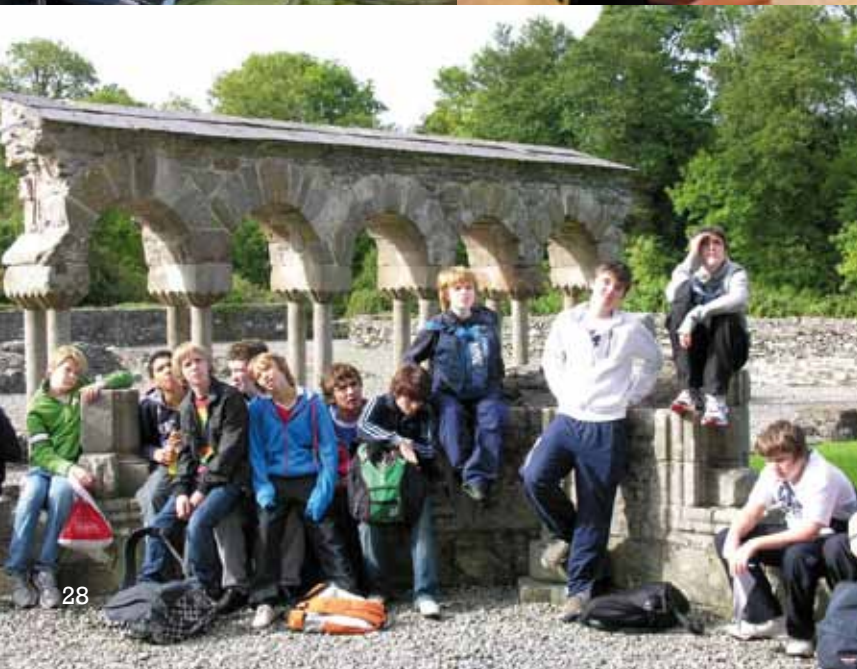
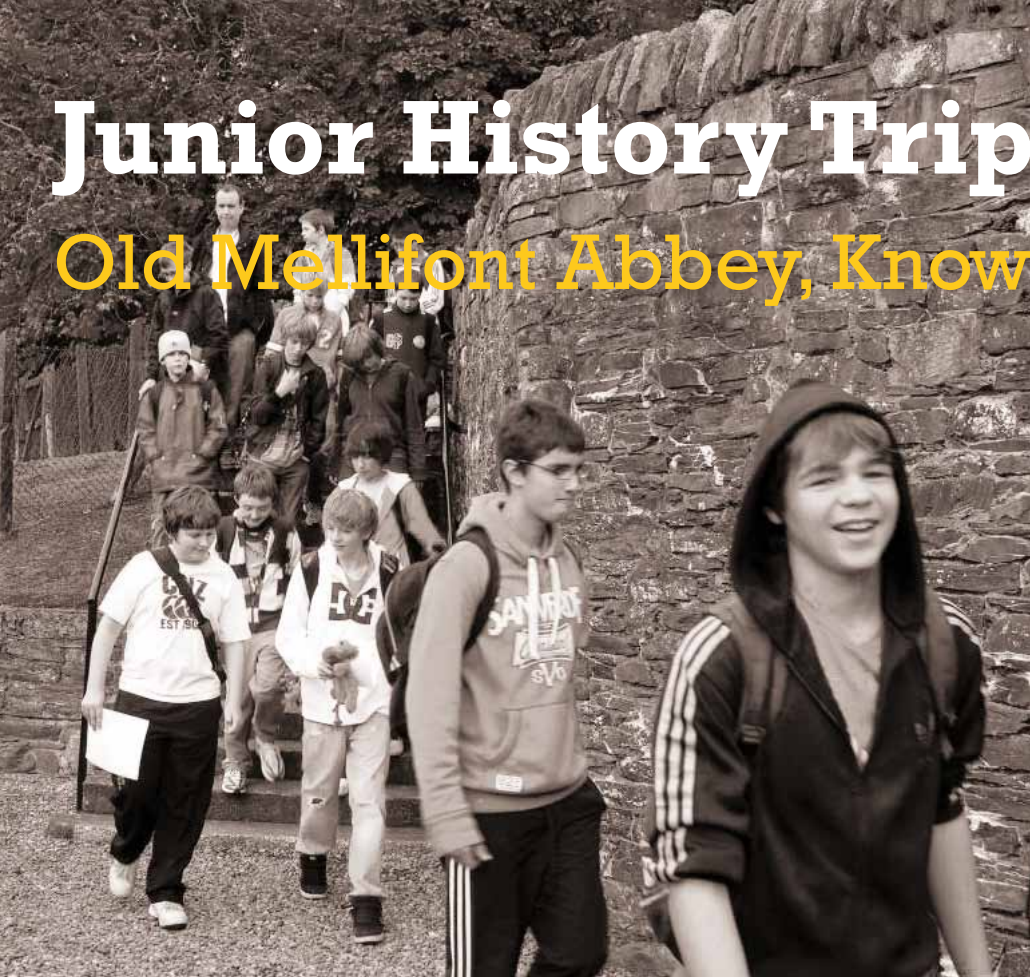
India is, to me, a land of beauty and hope but also of tough realities and, in some places, even chaos. But it is also a country full of entrepreneurs. India is a country with a future, which will go hand-in-hand with its beautiful past.

Marcus West, TYSO'M



Junior History Trip

Old Mellifont Abbey, Knowth & Dowth



Mathematics

Senior Applied Mathematics Quiz

This year five Sandford Park students, accompanied by Mr Howlett, took part in the annual IAMTA Senior Applied Maths Quiz, held in St Michael's College. It is an event which allows fifth and sixth year students from all around the country to compete in a ten round competition consisting of problems from the first half of the Leaving Certificate syllabus.

Each school was allowed to enter two teams of three, with no more than two sixth years per team. Unfortunately last minute illness and injury meant that we only had two sixth years available on the night, but, instead of choosing to forfeit one of our teams, we recruited an extra fifth year and decided to persevere with the warriors at our disposal.

We gathered ourselves in the hall along with the other students, some of whom we recognised from the Maths Quiz earlier in the year. After a lengthy discussion regarding how we should divide ourselves up, we settled on the fact that we needed at least one sixth year on each team. We agreed that I would work with Brian Rigney and Matthew Cater, while Eoghan Reid and Scott Addison paired up at the other table.

Obviously our makeshift teams didn't fill us with much confidence as the questions got underway, but we soon got into our rhythm. We knew that the first five rounds would consist of three questions from a given chapter of the course. We were informed

that there would then be a short break before we continued with the final five rounds, with questions of a more difficult level.

After several rounds, we were satisfied with how events were proceeding. With constant updates providing the answers to previous rounds, we knew that we hadn't got too many questions incorrect and were probably placed somewhere mid-table.

The rounds lasted six minutes each and so, by the time the interval came, we were all exhausted and gratefully accepted the complimentary chocolate bars. Our two teams compared results with one another before being shocked to find out that the final rounds would only last four minutes each. We re-entered the hall fearing the worst, only to discover that a table of half-time results was being shown on the projector. Both of our teams were faring well and were positioned within the top third of the table of thirty-two.

We commenced the final rounds with gusto, reasoning that with our unorthodox team set-up we were on the cusp of a moral victory. However, a few minutes of these shorter, more difficult rounds brought us back down to earth. We were getting more and more answers wrong and fatigue was becoming a significant factor. We did take solace in the fact that our neighbouring tables looked just as anxious as us.

We were glad to see the end of the questioning and enjoyed a few minutes of relaxation while the scores were totalled. We weren't expecting to win but were hopeful that we'd done ourselves justice. The results came in and we discovered that we'd managed to maintain our spot near the top with Eoghan and Scott just one point behind. The overall winners were Gonzaga, who had also been victorious in the Maths Quiz. We had finished close enough to the top to be satisfied and enjoyed the evening very much.

Tom Kennedy, 6ND



Form I Art: "Alien Masks"



"Alien Mask" by Jack Harvey



"Alien Mask" by Calvin Ho



"Alien Mask" by Omer Shah



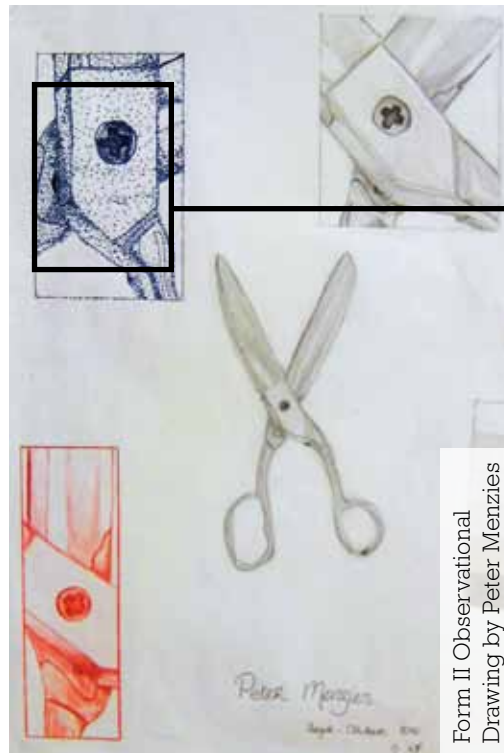
"Alien Mask" by Joey Hyde-Sloan



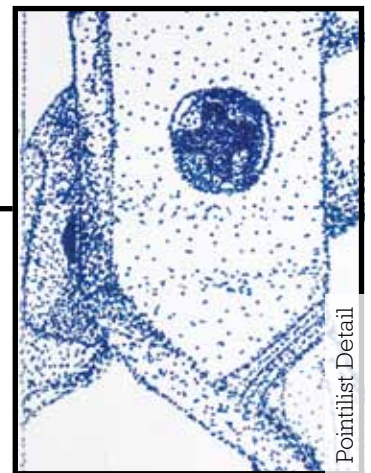
Leaving Certificate 2011
Still Life by Ross Kennedy



Detail



Form II Observational
Drawing by Peter Menzies



Pointilist Detail



Croagh Patrick

Transition Year Trip

15 Transition Year students left the school in the early hours of Sunday the 13th of March with only one thing on their minds: How many of them would be returning after the perilous journey up the horrifyingly treacherous Croagh Patrick?

The young explorers would be accompanied by an elite team of expert mountaineers - Mr Dunlop, Mr McBain, Ms Ketterick and Stephanie ('the lady in pink' - Shane O'Neill).

After the 3 and a half hour journey we could see from the bus that Croagh Patrick was covered in a thick layer of snow! However this didn't stop us and we were eager to set off on our challenge. But first, we need to put on our High Visibility Bibs. We didn't know why we needed them so Mr McBain explained that they would be used to find our bodies!

And so it began. We started at a record making pace. However, this record making pace didn't last long and so we adopted a more relaxed approach to mountain climbing. Eventually we reached the top. We could tell that the scenery would have been magical but were caught in the middle of a raging blizzard. Therefore, we took refuge in the church/picnic spot.

After we had finished our biscuits (biscuit packets for Steve) we began our decent. It was a very slow process due to the snow. The only thing that kept us going was the warm soup waiting for us far below.

We actually all made it down and after a most enjoyable soup break we piled onto the bus. An eventful bus journey home

involved a trip to Super Macs, helicopter noises from the Bus driver (on his microphone), and Mr Dunlop joining in as we sang along with the tunes on the radio.

We arrived in Sandford 13 hours after we had left all feeling much more religious after our pilgrimage. Over €600 was raised for 'Autism Ireland' and we had a great day.

James Orr, TYKMcB

Croagh Patrick Challenge

On Sunday 13th of March, Ms Ketterick, Mr Dunlop, Mr McBain and 15 TY students embarked on a journey to Westport in Co. Mayo, to climb Croagh Patrick in aid of Autism Ireland.

Croagh Patrick is the 3rd highest mountain in Ireland, reaching 2,507 feet. They joined many members of the public in what can only be described as a 'challenging' climb. Students were met with 'delicate' conditions: mist, blizzards, ice and snow but they persevered nevertheless until they reached the summit. All students returned safely and thankfully were still smiling!

The students raised in excess of €600. I would like to congratulate them for all their efforts and I would also like to thank Mr Dunlop and Mr McBain for accompanying Leah Ketterick and the students to the summit.

Leah Ketterick



La Dépêche

Après un stage pour professeurs de français à Paris en 2009 où on nous a parlé de la possibilité de demander à nos élèves d'écrire des articles pour un journal dans l'école, nous avons commencé une expérience en février cette année. Les élèves en 4e allaient choisir un sujet qui les intéressait (le sport, la musique etc.) et chaque semaine ils devaient écrire un article qui paraîtrait dans le journal *La Dépêche* le vendredi.

Chaque jeudi, les articles étaient rédigés et les garçons en 4e vendaient le journal le vendredi matin.

Nous espérons continuer avec cette expérience l'année prochaine et avec du travail il sera possible d'améliorer la qualité de *La Dépêche*.

Merci à tous les élèves qui ont aidé avec le travail et merci à Aude-Lys Béziat et Aleksandra pour leur soutien.

Nicholas Dunlop

Leinster v Racing Metro 92

Brian O'Driscoll a terminé un match qui avait des essais aussi de Johnny Sexton, Isa Nacewa et Sean O'Brien. Sexton a marqué 21 points aussi un match quel Leinster a gagné.

Hernandez a marqué 3 points tôt dans le match, mais Nacewa a marqué un essai peu de temps après. Puis Racing métro a marqué un essai et c'était 8-7 après 16 minutes.

Leinster a travaillé dur et a marqué 2 essais en 4 minutes avec O'Brien et Sexton. Hernandez a lancé plus de 3 points avant la mi-temps, ils ont été les derniers points de Racing.

Dans la 2ème mi-temps, Leinster a été excellent. Il a marqué deux essais de plus, encore pour Sexton et pour l'homme d'anniversaire Brian O'Driscoll. O'Brien a été exceptionnel et mérite d'être l'homme du match. Le score final a été 36-11 pour Leinster.



L'Artiste: David Guetta

Année a commencé: 1984

Il est né le 7 novembre 1967 à Paris, France. Il a commencé à être le DJ à la petite boîte de nuit dans les années 80s et les années 90s. Just A Little More Love, son premier album, a paru en 2001 outre d'une étiquette record il a fait avec son ami appelé Gum Productions. Deux autres ont paru en 2003 et 2008. En 2009 il a eu des collaborations avec des artistes comme l'enfant Cudi et Kelly Rowland. Il a été voté le "Best House DJ"; en 2008 par des récompenses du DJ et la également placé troisième dans les 100 principaux Djs par le magazine du DJ en 2009. Guetta a produit la chanson des Black Eyed Peas; *I Got a Feeling*; Kelly Rowlands de chanson; *Commander*.

Avis: 9/10

Chansons Recommandées: *One Love, When Love Takes Over, Getting Over You, Memories*



SciFest 2011

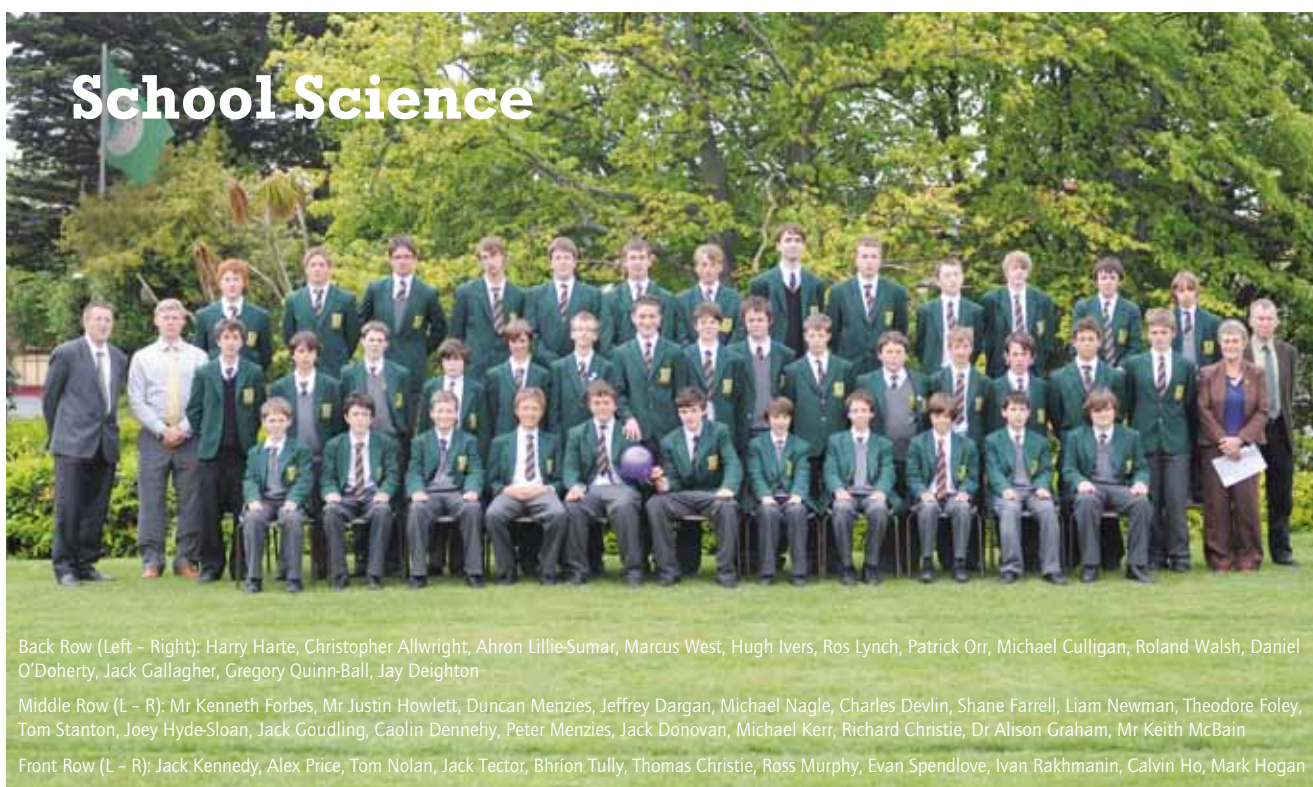
On Tuesday, the 10th of May, after what must have been weeks of work, all the first years, second years and Transition Years set off ready for a day of science.

We had high hopes, as we had all worked hard on our projects which were really interesting. Jack Tector, Tom Nolan and I were comparing expensive and cheap golf balls. Most of the tests showed no differences but, in comparing how fast and straight the balls rolled, the expensive ones did better. Jay Deighton, Jack Goulding and Ahron Lillie Sumar investigated whether taste or smell was most important in identifying different flavoured sweets, while Cuan Rynhart, JJ Sweeney and Christopher Davies devised something to measure the wetness of a baby's nappy.

In the morning, we all talked to three different judges about our projects. We then went outside to eat our lunch and we had a mad football match – second year vs first year and TY. Second year won by a clear mile! In the afternoon, we chose which lectures to attend. Some were on Forensic science, some on Astronomy but my favourite was on chemical explosions. At the prize giving, it was great to see Peter Menzies, Shane Farrell and Tom Stanton win first in their section and one of the Transition Year groups win a prize too.

Alex Price, 2KF

Science



School Science

Back Row (Left – Right): Harry Harte, Christopher Allwright, Ahron Lillie-Sumar, Marcus West, Hugh Ivers, Ros Lynch, Patrick Orr, Michael Culligan, Roland Walsh, Daniel O'Doherty, Jack Gallagher, Gregory Quinn-Ball, Jay Deighton

Middle Row (L – R): Mr Kenneth Forbes, Mr Justin Howlett, Duncan Menzies, Jeffrey Dargan, Michael Nagle, Charles Devlin, Shane Farrell, Liam Newman, Theodore Foley, Tom Stanton, Joey Hyde-Sloan, Jack Goudling, Caolin Dennehy, Peter Menzies, Jack Donovan, Michael Kerr, Richard Christie, Dr Alison Graham, Mr Keith McBain

Front Row (L – R): Jack Kennedy, Alex Price, Tom Nolan, Jack Tector, Bhrion Tully, Thomas Christie, Ross Murphy, Evan Spendlove, Ivan Rakhmanin, Calvin Ho, Mark Hogan



SciFest Winners: (Left – Right) Dr Alison Graham, Duncan Menzies, Harry Harte, Tom Stanton, Shane Farrell, Peter Menzies, Mr Keith McBain

All of the first, second and fourth years entered and competed in SciFest this year in the Institute of Technology, Tallaght. After all the science classes dedicated to preparing our projects, we were ready! I, along with Shane Farrell and Tom Stanton, did a project on the 'No. 1 Dog Toy'. We all had a great time.

In the morning, we presented our project to the judges, then we played football, had lunch and went to two lectures of our choice. Before the lectures we waited at our project for extra judging. We presented our project to a few extra judges, which is always a good sign, and then waited for the prize giving ceremony. Sandford won two prizes. We won first prize in the Junior Technology section for our project, and two fourth years, Duncan Menzies and Harry Harte, won second prize in the Intermediate Social and Behavioural Sciences section. Even though only two groups won prizes, I think everyone had a good time participating in SciFest. It was a great experience.

Peter Menzies, 2KF

BT Young Scientist 2011

This year three projects from second year entered and got through to the final of the BT Young Scientist competition in the RDS in January. I entered with Shane Farrell with our project on Phototropism and we really enjoyed it.

At first I thought it was just a good opportunity to get a couple days off school but after being there with all the projects, the science experiments, the judges and all the other people competing, I realised that it was a really good experience. I, along with Shane, Tom, Darragh, Alex and Jack, the students from the other 2nd year Sandford projects, had a great time. We all made a lot of friends with students from different schools all over Ireland. Everyone was really friendly as we got to know the students on stands near ours such as the girls from Tyrone. We also learned a lot from all the science experiments and from all the other projects that competed in the BT Young Scientist competition. It was also a great opportunity to learn to speak more confidently because after presenting our project to three judges, students, teachers and other people Shane and I became a lean, mean project-presenting machine. Another great part of the competition was the opening ceremony in which president Mary McAleese spoke. However, it wasn't all fun and free stuff. It took Shane and me many long nights and a lot of hard work to get our project into the competition but it was worth it many times over. Also it took a lot of planning much of which we could never have done without help from Dr Graham, who gave up a lot of her time to help us. She visited and encouraged us throughout and without her I don't think our project would have made it into the competition. Thanks Dr Graham! Also thanks to Ms Byrne who also visited us and sent us muffins during the competition - I got a blueberry muffin.

I really recommend students entering next year. You meet a lot of people, you get a lot of free stuff, you learn a lot and you might get a muffin. It's a win win experience!

Peter Menzies, 2KF

The Sandford Young Scientist Competition

For my science project, I was in a group with two of my friends. We wanted to find out which animal manure was the best fertiliser. To do this, we grew radishes in pots. Each pot had 50g of animal manure, with one pot as a control test. We had our radishes growing in the greenhouse at the back of the science lab, hoping that we would get some large, flavoursome radishes that we could eat. Sadly, this wasn't the case but we did find out some interesting facts. We found out that fresh manure burns plants, so it's a bad idea to put it on your plants. From the plants that grew, the rabbit manure was very good so anyone who has rabbits, you know what to do.

For the Sandford Young Scientist competition, we had an interview with a scientist who we had never met before. We were asked about the variables, the method, the results and what went wrong. We were also asked about what we would do if we had more time. We were pleasantly surprised to find the second place rosette pinned to our project on Sports Day!

SciFest was similar, except that there were more judges and it was a lot louder. Two judges came to talk to us about our project and, afterwards, we went to two science lectures. We were a bit disappointed that we didn't win anything, but there's always next year! Overall it was a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone thinking of trying it.

By Fearghus Montague, 1MB

Let it Snow

The cold and snowy conditions before Christmas gave the boys some extra time at home and also left the school looking even more beautiful than usual.



Senior Rugby

The season started with a huge feeling of optimism. We had a large group of 6th formers with a lot of experience at this level, and who were well used to playing with each other. There were also many players joining us from the juniors, including James Orr and Louis Cannon, whose impressive talents managed to secure them starting roles.

We began with a home game against local rivals, St Conleth's. It was a miserable day, lashing rain and hail, which didn't suit our playing style. It was a hard fought match, during which one of our star players, Josh Cowan, dislocated his shoulder. We managed to come away with an 8-3 victory. What followed was not what we had expected. Our head coach Mr Patrick Collins was less than pleased. Our performance was deemed to be sub-standard. In Sandford, you become used to being praised for minor losses and individual performances; heavy criticism in defeat was not something we were used to hearing. I think we all knew in that huddle that this rugby season was going to be one unlike any Sandford Park School had ever experienced.

Our next match took us to Gonzaga, another local rival and a match in which Mr Howlett wanted nothing less than a win. We marched two teams down to Gonzaga, eager to return with two wins. Our second team came away with a draw in what I was told was a very exciting match of rugby. The first team were more fortunate to come away with a massive win. Our following match was against a weak Blackrock side, a game that we won with ease.

The season had started well after all, with 3 wins out of 3, but we all knew we hadn't fulfilled our potential yet. Our next match, against Mount Temple, reminded us of that. In a home game against a league rival, we lost by a small margin. Our more senior players took this as a message to up the ante. Training became more intense from then on; we would accept nothing but perfection. Our next game was testament to our hard work, a 57-0 win against Belvedere, followed by a great triumph against a section B team, St Andrew's.

Our next game brought us to Marian College, which was truly a bruising affair. We lost this match despite an impressive performance from a TY, Oisín Berghenti, who had to step in at out-half for the injured Terance Robson. Next on our schedule was

Newpark Comprehensive, a team that qualified for the Senior Cup the previous year and was considered the best in our section. Despite our best efforts, we couldn't fulfil the underdog story but our performance and style of play turned many heads.

The next week in the season was a tough one. A match on the Wednesday against St Columba's, the team we had lost to in the McMullen shield the previous year, and we were hosting a touring London Oratory team on the Thursday. We didn't look past Wednesday, which was a chance to get revenge. We led for the majority of the game, courtesy of an outstanding try by John Naughton. However, we managed to fall behind in the dying minutes of the game and, despite a great effort, we were not able to break the St Columba's defence, the game ending 13-10 with us within their 5 metre line. It was a devastating match to lose but we couldn't dwell on it too long. We had learned that Oratory had an undefeated season the previous year and were something of a wrecking ball in English rugby. We weren't wrong. They started very strong but, in one of our best performances of the year, we only trailed by 12 points at half time. Despite a spectacular try from James Orr and one from myself, they came away with a comprehensive 42-12 victory.

When the McMullen cup draw was completed, there was a mixed reaction to our draw against Good Counsel. They had a history of knocking us out of the cup, doing so for 3 years running. We needn't have worried though because, with a comprehensive win, we managed to progress in the competition.

Next in our cup run was Maynooth P.P. We had never played Maynooth before and were unsure of what to expect. With two early tries from Josh Cowan, we thought we had it won early. Our complacency was our downfall and we were lucky to come away with a draw. A replay was scheduled for the following week. We had a week of light but very focused training to get us ready for the replay and it worked. In the second game against Maynooth, we had an outstanding performance and won by more than 30 points. This brought us to the semi-finals of the McMullen Cup and also an automatic qualification for the Vinnie Murray Cup, a first for Sandford.

Our semi-final was against Skerries. There was a buzz about the school and great support for the seniors, something we hadn't seen in a while. There was also great support from parents, students and old boys at the game. Despite this, we started poorly, conceding two early and easily avoidable tries. At half time we trailed 21-0, but with inspirational words from Mr

Sports Day

Sports day is when Sandford Park students take to the pitch and participate in a number of athletic events, cheered on by exuberant parents. This year's sports day was held on the 19th of May. Despite the typical Irish summers we usually endure, sports day has traditionally been a bright and sunny day and, luckily, this year was no different.

The events include the long jump, shot-putt, 800 metre, 400 metre, 4x100m relay, 100 metre, volleyball and, of course, the infamous tug-of-war between class groups. The tug-of-war gives overactive teens the chance for ultimate bragging rights over their counterparts in the opposite form!

This year we were hosting student teachers from New York. They too took part in the day, running their own 100 metre race and playing in a volleyball game.

The athletics of the day went well, with great participation from everybody. In the senior section, Sean Fahey deserves a mention for easily winning the 100 meter Fifth Year race. However, Andrew Bofin took the ultimate cup for his success in many events throughout the day.

It was the tug of war, though, that was the most memorable for everyone. Parents and teachers alike encircled the heated competition between class groups from First to Sixth year. However, the ultimate competition came when the Fifth years squared off against the Sixth years. To be honest, we Fifth years won that one quite easily. A final tug of war with the American students spelled the end of a rope that had spent 70 years in the school (according to Mr Collins!) Overall, a great day was had by all, which was rounded off memorably when the famous Irish Cricketing legend Trent Johnston arrived to hand out the medals and sign some autographs!

Niall Campbell, 5AM

Adam Turner putting the shot



Hamza Khan impresses



Form V Volley Ballers



Form VI runners. Is Martin Smith home and dry?



A single minded Theo Foley following an airborne James Sheehan



Well done everyone!



Transition Year

'Enthusied and energised' is the only way to describe this year's Transition Year group. They threw themselves wholeheartedly into all that the year had to offer. The net result of this is that they have matured both physically and mentally.

I am confident that all the boys are now in a much better position to participate fully in the Leaving Certificate programme and that they will use the skills honed in Transition Year, such as critical thinking, independent learning and self motivation, to good effect.

It is just as well that there was an abundance of energy in this group as this year was an extremely busy one for Transition Year with several new modules on offer, such as the bush-craft course, the Social Geography *allotment project*, the EDUCCO charity programme and the 'extended' overnight adventure challenge. This year's group are also to be complimented on the number of boys taking on the Gaisce Award. The play this year, *Cyrano de Bergerac* (which was fantastic), had the largest cast drawn from a TY group than any previous production, and our end-of-year celebration evening saw no fewer than 17 different presentations go on stage, from musical items to 'live' CPR demonstrations. Involvement in extra-curricular activities continues to be a key factor in gaining the most one can from Transition Year. Some notable successes this year were the Senior Choir, which won the Wesley Inter Schools competition, and the Debating Team, which became double All-Ireland champions, winning both the Gael Linn and Concern Debating competitions. Both these groups had a strong Transition Year presence.

To round off, the boys of TYKMcB and TYSO'M have been an absolute delight to work with, they have truly gotten involved in all that TY has to offer and have, I feel, reaped the rewards of what has been a most productive year. I hope you enjoy the following accounts of some of this year's highlights.

Celebration Evening

The idea of the *Celebration Evening* is to recognise the input of boys from both forms throughout the year and focus on excellence and achievement through presentations and displays. This year there was no shortage of material or eager participants with no fewer than 17 different 'acts' getting up on stage to deliver what would be an excellent summation of what TY had to offer.

Music on the night was provided by two acts, firstly the Guitar Quartet, which this year is comprised solely of Transition Year boys: Conrad Jones, George Dagg, Brian Moriarty and James Orr. They played a beautiful rendition of *Zarabanda* by Enrique Granados. Following this were two members of the band Flashback, Michael Kerr and Brian Moriarty and they gave an energetic acoustic performance of the Who's classic *Pinball Wizard*. Other highlights of the night included the Social Geography *allotment project* who as well as presenting their project they also had on display a selection of their wares which were for sale on Sports Day. Hamza Khan and Luke O'Connor presented an interesting talk on their involvement in the Model United Nations while Patrick Orr, Rhys Unger, Stephen McWade and Hamza Khan dazzled us with their Spanish linguistic abilities which were put to the test in this year's inaugural Interschool Spanish Debate.

The Sports Science presentation proved to be one of the amusing highlights of the night as Louis Cannon, James Orr and Rhys Fallon Moran demonstrated most graphically the art of CPR. To round off an entertaining evening Michael Culligan, gave an informative and moving synopsis of what it is like to be involved in the school play and Christopher Allwright and James Orr enthralled us with a reprise from *Cyrano de Bergerac* – pure class! Well done to all the pupils and teachers who put in so much effort to ensure the evening was a roaring success.

Shane Keogh
Transition Year Coordinator

Bush Craft Survival

Before the Easter break, the whole of Transition Year set out on a trip to the Dublin Mountains to take part in a bush-craft survival course. Upon arrival at the centre I have to admit I was slightly skeptical about what exactly a bush craft survival course was. Would it be hunting or maybe orienteering? Soon all would be explained. From the bus we navigated our way down to the centre lodge, where we were immediately greeted by what looked like an ex-marine task force. The instructors began their talk by showing us a PowerPoint on what we would be taking part in throughout the day. This included building shelters and securing food from different locations around the centre. After the presentation was made, we were put into groups and given team names such as Bravo, Charlie and Foxtrot. This, as you could imagine, only added to the already military vibe we were getting. The marines then lead us down to a safe spot to begin our challenge.

Our first challenge was to build a shelter using our surroundings. After minutes of searching for a suitable spot to start, we came across what looked like a shelter that had been abandoned and dismantled. We then started the construction of a new shelter. At the start of the challenge we were

given a miniature saw, which we used to cut trees as support for the shelter. We then tied branches together using a combination of laces and bendy twigs, the latter being my idea. George Dagg soon took on the role of leader and ordered Shane and me to collect moss to use as padding over the sticks, so that water would not get in. A firewall would also be needed to protect the fire from wind. Conrad, Rhys and Oisín would build this.

During the construction we were given a second challenge, which consisted of finding food that had been hidden somewhere in the grounds of the centre. After five minutes of deliberation, we decided that Conrad, Brian and I would set out on the expedition. We were told that if we did not find it within an hour we would be forced to return without the food. This was not an option. We'd been gone just ten minutes when we spotted the enemy's tracks. One of them had left a brown jumper at a gate close by so that they could find their way back. We considered for a few seconds whether to throw the jumper away in order to steer them off course, but came to the conclusion that this might cost us in the form of a penalty later on, and so left the brown jumper at its resting place.

After a heated debate, comrade Conrad finally came to his senses and accepted that he had, in fact, been leading us towards the main road and to the opposite side of our target, and so we turned around and went in the direction I had previously suggested. We then came to a path where, in the distance, we could see some sort of box. We approached with caution, on the off chance that it was a land mine. We used Brian to open the box. Inside, we found sausages, pasta and vegetables, and quickly made our way back to camp. The next task was to cook the food. This job was given to the Italian and soon we had lunch. Another part of our learning was to know how to skin and cook a rabbit. This consisted of taking the intestines and other gooey stuff out of the body and then cooking the remainder of the meat.

At the end of the day our team came out victorious, with awards for the best food and shelter. We went home with a sense of pride in our accomplishments.

Johnny Nagle, TYKMcB

Educo Charity

Educo is a charity run by Irish volunteers to raise money for children in poverty in India. Their objective is to educate children out of poverty by building brand new school buildings and providing school equipment. 100% of donations go directly to the charity and they are a non-profit organisation.

This year in TY, members of the charity presented us with a slide show at the beginning of the year. They and Mr Keogh believed that a group of enthusiastic TYs fundraising for them would be fantastic. So with that, a small group of eight committed to do the best we could for the charity and to raise as much money as possible. The group consisted of Adam Carroll, Harry Harte, Rhys Unger, Ros Lynch, Louis Cannon, James Orr, Conrad Jones and Vincent Whelan.

Before doing anything, we felt that raising

awareness was key. We felt this was important, as it is a small charity and it's also a local charity, based in Ranelagh. Jim Boylan, co-owner of Educo, sent us out massive posters and many leaflets to provide to the public. We then went around the neighbourly streets of Ranelagh with the leaflets and posters, visiting each shop, restaurant, café, etc., asking permission to stick up a poster on their shop wall and to leave a couple of leaflets for customers. Thankfully, most owners were full of praise and said it was a pleasure.

After raising awareness inside and outside of school, we then had the matter of actually getting money! Every meeting, different lads came up with great ideas and it was very promising. But then late November arrived and ... snow, snow and yes, more snow, right up until Christmas! This was fantastic, of course, for the

students but for Educo, it was quite a disaster. We had to cancel many different fund raising activities and ideas, but this didn't stop us. We came back even more determined and finally started getting the money on the table.

We accomplished many fund raising activities, such as:

- Collecting at the Battle of the Bands
- TY students versus Teachers football match
- Movie day
- Form versus Form football match
- Non-uniform days

We had many other ideas also but unfortunately it wasn't possible to go ahead with them. I am extremely happy with the work the group put into this charity and believe it was a fantastic project to do in Transition Year. Mr Keogh was a great help to us as he guided us along.

Adam Carroll, TYSO'M

School Tour 2011

Niedersachsen & Amsterdam

Firstly, I must thank Alja, Mercedes and all the team at Budget School and Group Tours for their great work and organisation in making the tour very enjoyable and most successful. They really made the whole process seem effortless.

As has become the norm, the tour departed from Dublin airport at the crack of dawn on Thursday the 14th of April, bound for Dusseldorf. Excitement was virtually uncontained. The first stop was to Bergen Belsen, where the group was reminded what the human race was capable of when its collective moral compass is lost. The boys were excellent and listened avidly to a mixture of recordings in the museum and what was said by their teachers.

The group stayed in the hotel Tryp in the town of Celle. The boys were very impressed with the 'all you can eat' buffet breakfast. The group visited Volkswagen's Autostad and the Phaeno science park. Both were truly spectacular. The visit to Heidepark theme park was possibly the best I have been to over the past twenty-plus years. There were a large variety of rides, the queues were well ordered and the rides gave great value for money.

In the Netherlands, the group stayed in the coastal resort of Noordwijk, which proved to be an excellent base for Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague. The guide in The Hague had a tongue-in-cheek self-deprecating sense of humour, which was appreciated by the adults and some of the older boys. The tour of Rotterdam harbour was truly spectacular and my personal highlight. The visit to the Van Gogh museum was excellent, though the queues were

horrendous even with advance booking. Everyone enjoyed the canal boat tour of Amsterdam.

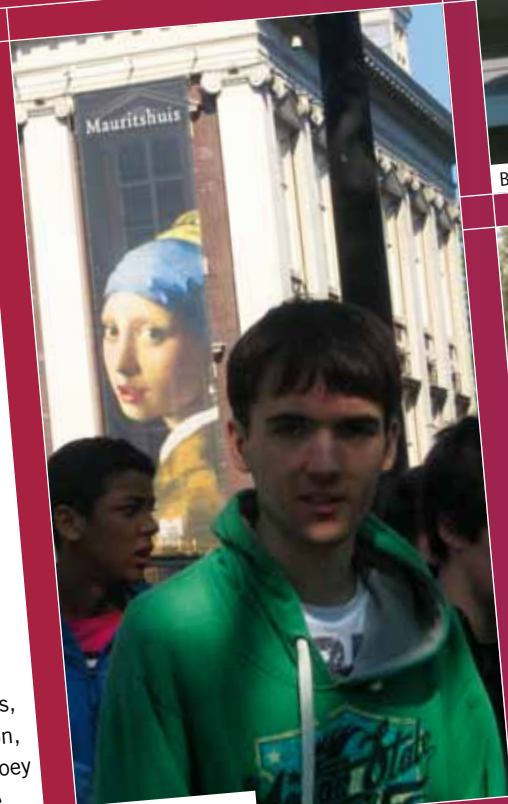
The boys enjoyed many different evening activities. Their highlight was undoubtedly the Tikibad centre where they had a super time in the pool complex. They also enjoyed activities such as laser games and bowling.

A big thank you to Nick Dunlop, Carl Shepard and Marie Brennan for their company and hard work whilst on the tour.

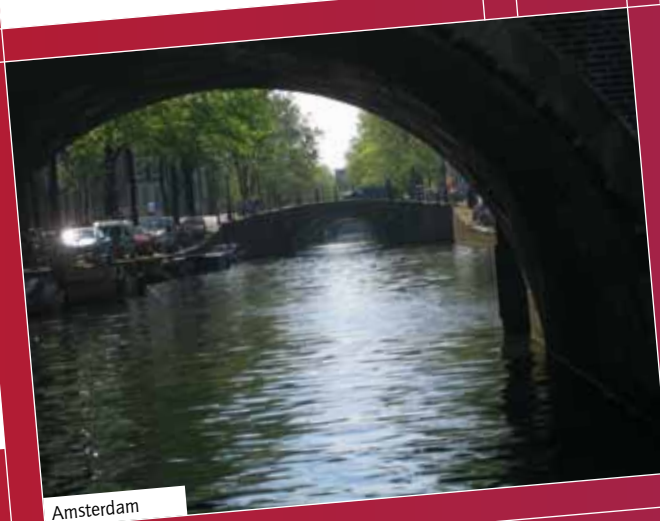
The boys who travelled were:

Daniel Brett, Philip Britton, Emmet Carey, Yuk Wing Cheung, William Coffey, Michael Culligan, Christopher Davies, Caolin Dennehy, Eoin Donohoe, Lochlan Farrell, Sean Fenlon, Peter Flanagan, Mathieux Barlow-Ladas, Hugh Lavery, Peter Menzies, Ross Murphy, Johnny Nagle, Joshua Norton, Diarmaid O'Donnabhain, Shane O'Neill, Joey Hyde-Sloan, Evan Spendlove, Ahron Lillie Sumar, Patrick Walsh, Roland Walsh.

C. Hoffman



Michael Culligan



Amsterdam





Where are they now?

Adam Clinton	DIT, Business Computing
Adam Price	DCU, International Relations
Alexander Harvey	UCD, Arts
Alexander Hughes	IT Tallaght, Computing
Andrea Soldini	Catholic University of Milan, Law
Andrew Noble	IADT Dun Laoghaire, Business Entrepreneurship
Andy Lei	DIT, Engineering
Barra Ó Donnabhain	UCC, Arts- Deferred until 2012
Byung-Wook Lim	Foundation Course in UK
Cameron Duffy	Stillorgan College of Further Education, Art Portfolio
Colin Lock-Tunissen	DIT, Culinary Arts
Conor McCormick	TCD, Science
Conor Wright	DIT, Computing
Daniel Hughes	IT Blanchardstown, Computing
Daniel Thornton	UCD, International Languages
Davin Conaty	TCD, Psychology and Economics
Elliott Finn-Phillips	UCD, Economics and Finance
Eoghan Reid	UCD, Commerce
Finn Crockatt	TCD, BESS
John Naughton	UCD, Commerce
Joshua Cowan	Repeating
Joshua Nolan	TCD, Philosophy
Kevin Armstrong	TCD, Science
Killian Tattan	TCD, Theoretical Physics
Lee Deighton	DBS, Business Studies
Martin Smith	Rathmines College of Further Education, Business and IT
Max Gillanders	Working for the year
Michael Bofin	Repeating
Nathan Slack-Fitzpatrick	IT Tallaght, Information Technology Management
Niall Corkery GMIT	Hotel and Catering Management
Nicholas Quinn-Ball	NCAD, Art (Core)
Nicolas Nowlan	UCD, Science
Patrick Costello	TCD,BESS
Robert Boos	UCD, Law
Robert Foley	TCD, Law and Business
Ross Kennedy	DunLaoghaire College of Further Education, AudioVisual Media
Ryan Cosgrave	Senior College DunLaoghaire, Architectural Studies
Seán Patten	UCD, Commerce International
Sebastian Farron-Mahon	IADT, Deferred to 2012
Stephen Cox	TCD, French and Spanish
Stephen Hardy	IADT, English Media and Cultural Studies
Terance Robson	DIT, Chinese & International Business
Tom Kennedy	TCD, Engineering
Vladimir Rakhmanin	TCD, Law and Business



Adam Clinton



Adam Price



Alexander Harvey



Alexander Hughes



Andrea Soldini



Andrew Noble



Andy Lei



Barra Ó'Donabháin



Byung-Wook Lim



Cameron Duffy



Colin Lock-Tunissen



Conor McCormick



Conor Wright



Daniel Hughes



Davin Conaty



Elliot Finn-Philips



Eoghan Reid



Finn Crockatt



John Naughton



Joshua Cowan



Joshua Nolan



Kevin Armstrong



Lee Deighton



Martin Smith



Max Gillanders



Michael Bofin



Nathan Slacke-Fitzpatrick



Lee Deighton



Nicholas Quinn-Ball



Nicolas Nowlan



Patrick Costello



Daniel Thornton



Robert Foley



Ross Kennedy



Ryan Cosgrave



Robert Boos



Sebastian Farron-Mahon



Séan Patten



Stephen Cox



Stephen Hardy



Killian Tattan



Terance Robson



Tom Kennedy



Vladamir Rakhmanin