

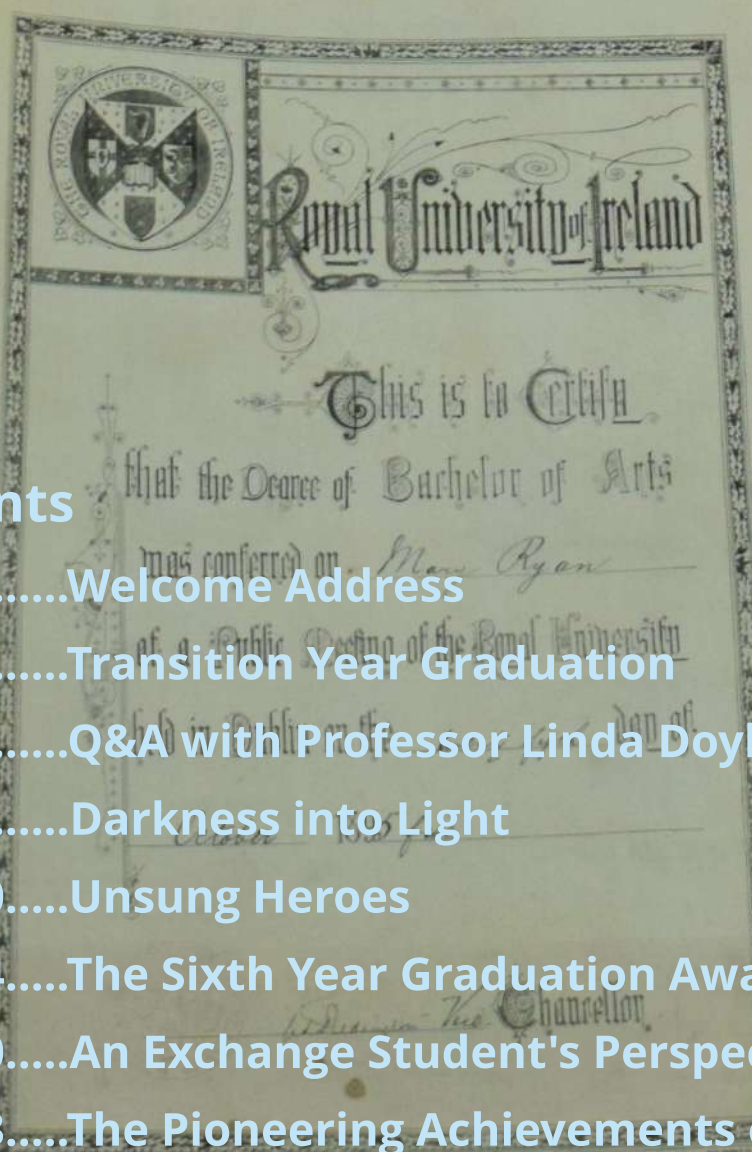
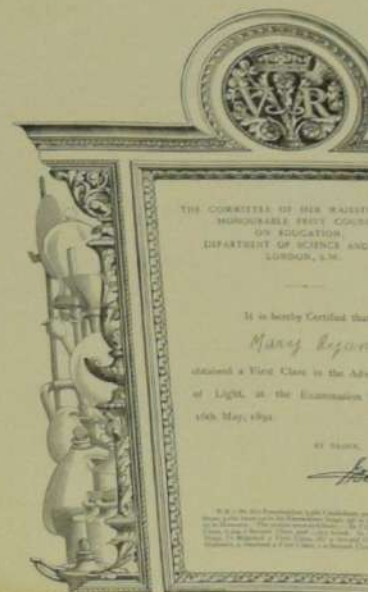
# Living the Green

*Professor  
Linda Doyle  
Exclusive  
Interview*

Plus

*Darkness into Light, Unsung Heroes, A  
Look Back at Dr Mary Ryan, An Exchange  
Student's Perspective on Lockdown & the  
Sixth Year Graduation*

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# Welcome Address



Welcome to the final edition of 'Living the Green' of the academic year! I think I speak for everyone when I say that this has been an exceptional year in many ways. While Covid has, of necessity, limited many school activities I am delighted that this edition of the school magazine demonstrates the vibrant life that continued in the school community.

I would like to take a moment to pay particular tribute to this year's Transition Year cohort. Even though their year was dramatically curtailed they have taken every opportunity offered to them, and maintained a positive attitude and a strong work ethic throughout. Their ability to adapt and thrive in new circumstances has been exemplary and I know the experience will stand to them as they face into the dreaded Leaving Cert! I hope you will enjoy reading about their many adventures in this issue.

We are especially proud of our past pupils here in St. Angela's. This issue contains an inspiring interview with Professor Linda Doyle, the new provost of Trinity College, as well as profile of Professor Mary Ryan, the first female university professor in the British Isles. I know that their achievements will inspire our current students to continue to strive for excellence in all they do.

There are many unsung heroes in the school, and this issue also celebrates some of these individuals who have worked hard to 'keep the show on the road'. I would like to offer a huge thank you to our administrative and ancillary staff, our teaching staff, our students and parents for their help and support in allowing the school to navigate the tricky waters of the Covid restrictions.

Finally, I would like to wish every member of the school community a healthy and sunny summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming everybody back to school in August and look forward with optimism to a return to normality.

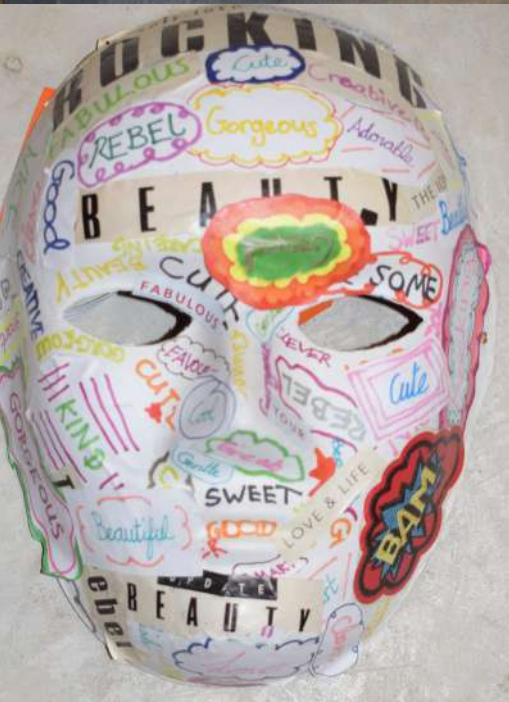
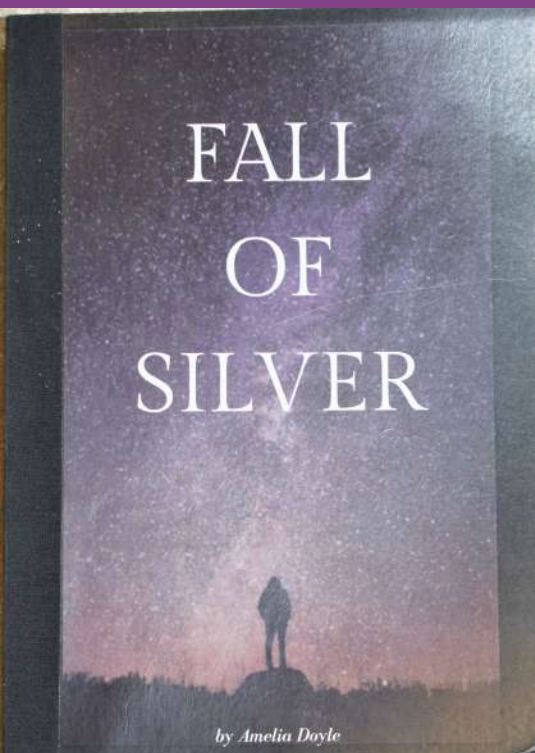
**Ms O' Donovan**

Deputy Principal



# TY Graduation <sup>4</sup>

Despite the lockdowns and restrictions we Transition Year students were grateful for a lot this year. While trips might have been curtailed we continued with a variety of projects, guest speakers, tasks and courses to keep us active, develop new skills and allow us to prepare for the rigours of the next two years. We were able to celebrate our achievements during our graduation ceremony with a look back at the momentous year we've had, one that's not likely to be forgotten for a long time to come, and we all want to acknowledge the huge debt of gratitude we owe to Miss O' Donovan for keeping the show on the road!



# Professor Linda Doyle Faces Her Toughest Interview Yet

**Only a few days after her historic appointment to the post of Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, in April 2021, Professor Linda Doyle replied to a congratulatory email sent from us and agreed to be interviewed for this issue of 'Living the Green'. She certainly hasn't forgotten her old alma mater and we here at St Angela's College are really proud of her and very grateful for her time, enthusiasm and generosity.**

**First off, how do you feel about the media attention you've received as a consequence of your recent appointment?**

So, I suppose I feel two different things. First of all, I think it's exciting because I'm delighted about the job. I think it's good that people draw attention to us from a historic point of view. But I also think I don't want to just be of interest because I am the first woman promoted to the job. You want to be taken seriously in the role, and sometimes I've just interviewed because of being a woman. But overall, I think people are really interested. And people in Cork are especially interested. And I have to say it is nice!

**How competitive was the interview process?**

So maybe I'll tell you a little bit about that. It isn't really an interview in the traditional sense. In the main, it's actually a political campaign, and it's

very, very unusual. All of the universities in Ireland, our institutions have a president. Trinity uses the word 'provost' instead of president, but sometimes we use the word president too. In all of our universities, there's an interview process for the post and you apply. But in Trinity, you apply, you do an interview, and then you run a political campaign, and the campaign lasted for 10 weeks. And you have to spend every day talking to each other, whether it is an individual or hundreds of people.

Are you familiar with the word 'hustings'? What happens at a hustings is that all the other candidates, everyone is in front of an audience, except this year everything was virtual, because of COVID. And you're presenting your views and people are asking you questions, so you had to do a lot of things like that as well. It was very hard and really intense. And it was made more intense by

the fact everything was virtual. At least I can see the two of you, but sometimes you were talking to hundreds of people, and you couldn't see them!

### Trinity or UCC?

So, I love Trinity, I have to say. I did my undergraduate in UCC, and I wouldn't be who I am without having done that, but, you know, I've been in Trinity for a long time. And, you know, I'm very happy to be provost. I hope I've answered that diplomatically!

### Do you feel you were treated differently in the process as you are a woman?

I'm an engineer originally, and in the particular fields of engineering I'm in, in the early days, when I would go to a conference you could be in a room with 1000 people, and there'd be 999 men and one woman. Someone might think you were the secretary, rather than an academic. So apart from that (that happened a little bit early on) things in the main have been very, very good. I think I was born at a good time. And now, for yourselves, there's nothing holding you back going for anything.

### Do you feel there is more of an equal gender balance in the study of STEM subjects now?

No, I don't actually, funnily enough. There's a difference between being treated OK versus the balance being there. So, in the very heavy technical subjects, it's still very small. When I studied engineering in UCC, originally, about 10% of the class were women. And, you know, there isn't much of a difference now. In some countries in the world there is more balance, but in Ireland I don't see a huge difference.

### Did you get into any trouble in SAC?

Sorry to disappoint you, but I was a total nerd! And actually, can I remember anything I did that got me into trouble? I don't think I have anything I can tell you. I was definitely one of the nerdy people in the class. I loved the school. Believe it or not I didn't want to go Angela's originally, because my friends from primary school were going somewhere else. My dad was really adamant I go because my great grandmother had gone to the

school. But I was absolutely delighted in the end, and anytime I ever gave out to dad or disagreed with him about something he'd say, 'Well, I made the right decision about the school and you loved it!'

### Were there any subjects in particular that were your favourite?

For me, I loved German. And I loved Physics.

### We would like to know, in your career, or do you think you've reached the top of that?

First of all, this new job is a 10-year job, so I have a long way to go. I haven't even started it yet! And I think there's lots of ambitions I have for this role that need to be reached. I think there'll be a lot of proving yourself. So, I think the easy bit is getting the job and the hard part will be actually delivering it in a good way. But the other thing I'd say is that I'm always fascinated by the way people these days do new things at an older age. You have people who are 70, and 80, doing all sorts of new things. I'd like to be the kind of person that always wants to do new things.

### If you could go back in time to your 16-year-old self, what advice would you offer them?

Oh, I always find that question very hard, because I think I would never have listened to any advice you would have offered me! I suppose in school, like I did love school, but when you're in your teenage years everything always seems harder and far so dramatic. I suppose the advice is just trust in yourself and be yourself. Don't allow anyone to turn you into something that you're not, but it's harder when you're younger. I don't know maybe you guys are very confident, but when you're younger, I think sometimes you doubt yourself, or don't think of yourself as interesting. So, I suppose I'd just say be yourself. I don't think I'd have listened to that though, if somebody said it to me when I was 16.

### Any advice, especially for those of us entering the Leaving Cert?

I think things are more stressful now because people are so focused on the Leaving Cert, and points and everything. I'd say first and foremost,



one of the things that I want to say is that an awful lot of people I worked with didn't get their first choice. Now these are successful people in their fields who are really good and well known for what they did. You automatically assume that they just got their first choice. When you're in your Leaving Cert, you can kind of think that unless you get this one thing the whole world is going to fall apart, but that's not the case.

And I think secondly, if you look at it now, people will have several careers. Years ago, you might have done one thing and you did it your entire time, but I think nowadays people end up reinventing themselves. There are plenty of opportunities to do something, and then do something else after that go do something else after that again. I think we should get away from focusing on this one thing that's the be all and end all. I think that would be really, really important to move away from thinking that unless this one thing works out your life is ruined.

**Did you join any clubs or teams?**

I was really into debating and there were lots of debating teams. I loved that. I also played hockey for St. Angela's for a very small amount of time. But the fact is, I'm not that sporty! But in fact, by playing hockey in St. Angela's, I ended up by mistake getting on a really good team at Trinity and I was the goalkeeper.

**So how would you encourage younger girls in particular to go into STEM?**

So that's a really hard question. There are loads of

initiatives and there's various different programmes in all sorts of places that encourage girls to become more interested in STEM, but it still doesn't appear to be working enough. One of the arguments I use, and I don't know whether you would agree with this or not, but when we look at the world around us, there are so many technical things that influence our world now. When you're on social media and stuff, you're being monitored and your data is being collected. And when you're in a smart city, you know, things are being controlled. So, from my perspective, if you want to make sure from a feminist perspective, that you have a say in how the world runs, you need to be technically literate. And a lot of that world is very technical. You have to be able to talk that way. So, I try to go at it from that angle, in terms of encouraging people. If you want your say or if you want power in the world, you need to have some ability to engage with those topics at some level, learn the language of technology and educate yourself on how it's being used in your life.

**OK, thank for that. We've left the most controversial questions til last. Barry's or Lyons?**

Definitely Barry's!

**Cork or Dublin?**

West Cork and Dublin.

**Interview conducted by Emma Punch and Ellie Purrmann (4A) on Friday April 23rd 2021.**





# St Angela's College Fundraiser for Pieta House

by Lisa Kaar (2B)



Once again, the community of St Angela's College participated in the annual fundraiser walk for Pieta House in support of their 'Darkness into Light' campaign that was held on the weekend of the 8th and 9th of May 2021. Due to Covid-19 unfortunately we could not participate together as a school, but Ms. Gallagher and the Junior Student Council came up with an ingenious work around to encourage as much participation as possible, and as a consequence a considerable number of students, teachers and members of the school community went on a walk or run on either the 8th or 9th of May in their local area. Family members, friends and even pets also took part! Each person who took part in the fundraiser donated the total amount of kilometres they walked or ran, donating their efforts to a specific year group in the school. The target amount of kilometres to reach for a year group was a whopping 1000! The 1st, 2nd and 3rd years all exceeded this target and received a sweet treat from the school for their excellent achievements. The overall winners, however, were the 3rd years, who collected a staggering total of 2819.26 kilometres! Well done to you all! They had a non-uniform day on Wednesday the 12th of May and received party bags from the school. Some notable mentions are Mr. Curran who walked and ran 13 kilometres, Cathy O' Halloran in 3A whose family donated 225 kilometres to the 3rd years and Sinead Roche and Sarah O'Donoghue who walked and ran 42 kilometres each! As a school community, St Angela's College walked or ran 7,558.26 kilometres and raised €1,117.72. Mr. Curran and Ms. O'Donovan kindly added to this total, so St Angela's donated a grand total of €1,900 to Pieta House. This is an incredible achievement and St Angela's are proud to have done it all for Pieta House, a very worthy cause.

# A Salute to Our Unsung Heroes

There are so many members of the school community who help to keep the show on the road. For example, as you read this, and while many of us are lucky enough to start our summer holidays, there's a small army of individuals working to ensure the Leaving Certificate exams run smoothly. We want to pay tribute and say thank you to as many of these people as we can, and apologise to those we just didn't have time to interview, but we hope to see you in future issues of 'Living the Green'!



**Name: Joe**

**Position: Caretaker**

Joe undoubtedly has his work cut out for him. He's been taking care of the everyday needs of the school for three and a half years, one of those years was spent with our old caretaker Sean. His day-to-day work involves an exhaustive list of tasks, many of them routine, but some are one-off and unexpected, as seen when COVID hit. Much of his work is unseen, done before the day begins for the majority of teachers and students. He comes in and opens up all the doors, makes sure all the bathrooms are stocked up, ensures the place is safe for everyone else who works in the buildings, he checks that classrooms are ready and moves furniture in preparation for guest speakers, special

occasions and weather conditions.

Throughout the day he can be seen keeping the school spick and span, doing a spot of gardening and topping up the sanitising stations. Once students leave school Joe's day still isn't over. He's emptying the bins and at the end of the day, closing windows, locking doors and setting the alarm.

There's no doubt that with Covid his job has become a lot more time-challenging as he has to sanitise all surfaces after we've touched them and he has to wear gloves all the time.

Joe's favourite thing about working in St Angela's is that the staff are really pleasant and he gets on well with them. He also said that the girls here are really nice and polite and that there is nothing better than hearing the laughter of students in the morning. He appreciates when girls open the doors for him when his hands are full and when students say 'hi' to him in the corridor. He also enjoys being included in activities like

the 6th year videos.

We also asked Joe if he preferred working in the school when it is empty or full of people, to which he replied that he gets more done when it is empty as he has no distractions but he prefers when people are around as the day goes by quickly.

Lastly, we asked him if there was anything the students and staff could do to make his job easier and he said it would be helpful if we came to him when there was a problem so he can fix it as sometimes he doesn't know about a problem until it's too late.

So next time you see Joe say 'hi' to him, thank him for the fantastic job he does in keeping our school looking so good, try to help him by playing your part to keep school tidy, and don't forget to tell him if you see something that needs fixing.

On behalf of all the students in St Angela's we want to say thank you so much for everything you do for us. We really appreciate it!

**Name: Susan**

**Position: Special Needs Assistant (SNA)**



The SNA's are a vital part of our community here at St Angela's College. A lot of times, people tend to forget about them or take them for granted. We wanted to give you some insight into the life of an SNA in St Angela's. Here is one of our SNA's called Susan Daly talking about her experience as an SNA

***What is your favourite thing about working at St Angela's?***

I love the students and the staff, they are always so welcoming. There is a lovely atmosphere in the school. I absolutely love my job and it is a pleasure to come in every day. St Angela's is an amazing place to work. I'd recommend it to anyone who appreciates a positive, welcoming and friendly environment.

***What has been your highlight of working at St Angela's?***

My highlight of working at St Angela's has probably been the flashmob that the teachers did at the Christmas concert in 2019. It was hilarious and so unexpected! Everyone in the school is so creative and knows how to make you laugh and smile. It's great to work in a school that balances fun and hard work. I can never stop smiling when I'm here at school.

***What is the most challenging aspect of your job?***

The most challenging aspect of my job is when the lift is broken or in use and I have to walk all the way up to the 5th floor from the 1st floor!! That is the only challenging aspect of my job I can think of because I am so happy with my job that nothing is too much of a challenge.

***What is the most rewarding part of your job?***

The most rewarding part of my job would probably be bonding with different groups of students. For example, this year I had the opportunity to teach the TY's Spanish. It was lovely to get to know their year a bit better as I had never had the opportunity to have much interaction with them beforehand. It was great to bond with them!

***How has Covid-19 affected your job and how does that make you feel?***

Working remotely was a huge challenge, especially as an SNA because you lose the level of

interaction that you once had and need with students. I really missed the atmosphere of the school when I was stuck at home all day every day and I am so delighted to be back, finally.

***What do you miss most about life before Covid-19?***

I really miss being able to go and eat out in a restaurant and being able to travel. I miss my social life. I'm glad to have a bit of normality back in my life since returning back to school but I'm really looking forward to life after Coronavirus.

***What's your favourite thing about your job?***

I spent many years working as a Montessori teacher and working in Junior Schools so I wanted to progress into working with older students. It is a completely different environment and atmosphere working in a secondary school and that was a nice breath of fresh air for me. I love coming in and talking to the staff and students, they make my job worthwhile. No two days are the same so I am never bored!



# 6th Year Graduation and Award Ceremony

## The Subject Awards

Fiadh Kelleher received the Irene Connolly Award for Excellence in English.  
Faye Fitzgerald won the Carmel Courtney Award for Irish 'Gradam na Gaeilge'.

Orla Coffey was awarded the McCurtain Award for Maths.

Clara O'Mahony received the French Award.

Isabel Phelan Healy was the recipient of the German Award.

Rebecca Bourke was awarded the Business Prize.

The Accounting Award went to Sinéad Coleman.

Pia Cronin won the Economics Award.

The Physics Award went to Ria White.

Emma Braham received the Chemistry Award.

Amy Cotter was the recipient of the Biology Award.

The Bríd O'Connor Award for Excellence in Science went to Orla Coffey.

The Mairéad Bushnell Home Economics Award was won by Grace Healy.

The Music Award went to Ella Burke.

The recipient of the Art Award was Amy Cotter.

The History Award went to Anna Lucey.

Isabel Jansen Cahill received the Geography Award.

The P.E Award for most improved player was awarded to Alannah O'Connor.



# CLASS OF 2021

- LIZ TWOMEY  
LUCY BRADLEY  
JESSICA STOKES
- ELLA BURKE  
GEMMA O' SULLIVAN
- EMMA BARRY  
LILY YELLAND  
AMY COTTER  
ELLA COLLINS
- HELEN RUTLEDGE  
OLIVIA BRENNAN  
AVA MCGARTHY  
AINE O'KEEFE
- SAURSE DEANE  
RIA WHYTE  
ORNA MOORE  
ANNA LUCEY
- ABBIE DOYLE  
EVELYN O' DONOVAN  
ELLA HORGAN
- ANNA MULCAHY  
GRACE HEALY  
SINEAD COLEMAN
- REBECCA BURKE  
ISABELLE WALSH
- EMILY HOLLAND  
SHEILA WHITTAKER  
OLWYN RYAN-BOVEY  
KAYLEIGH O'SULLIVAN  
EMMA AKENKULIE  
HANNAH O'SULLIVAN  
ISABEL DALY  
LAIAH AMANN  
HOLLY DONOVAN  
SASMINE BARRETT  
ROBYN BUCKLEY  
CLARE MULCAHY  
SOPHIE CALLINAN  
EMMA HEFFERNAN  
ALICE DOWNEY
- FEADH KELLEHER  
ADELE BUTLER  
ALISON WOODS
- RUBY WALSH  
ELLIE BARCLAY  
ALANNA O'CONNOR  
CIONA NÍ GHALLCHOIR  
HEATHER ROYAL-HAGERTY  
DANIELLE HENDLEY
- ROBYN GOULD  
LIA GUERIN  
LISA MCELHINNEY  
CHARLEY COOKE-CONLON  
ISABEL SANSEN-CAHILL  
NICOLE EMELDA O'DONOVAN  
AOIFE WALSH  
MARIAH MEERE  
EMILY GUNN  
ISABEL LYONS  
MIAMH CROHEN  
LOUISE O'SULLIVAN
- HANNAH O' MAHONY  
SINEAD O'BRIEN  
AOIFE O'CALLAGHAN  
MARIA KLEMASZEWSKA  
SOFIA O'CONNOR
- PIA GRONEN  
JESSICA FORDE  
LAURA CARROLL  
AMY-MARY GANNON  
YASMIN MURPHY  
KIARA GANNON LYNCH
- CIARA O SULLIVAN  
URLA COFFEY  
LAURA MURPHY
- LUCY RAY
- CLARA O'MAHONY  
LISA KAVANAGH  
LEAH MGSWEENEY  
LENA GUENEBAUT  
TERESA-MARIA O'SHEA  
DOIREANN NEODAIN
- EMMA BRAHAM  
JESSICA MURPHY  
CHLOE MCCARTHY  
FAYE FITZGERALD
- ROSE BUTTER
- ROBHA WALL
- ZOE WING
- ISOBEL PHELAN-HEALY
- RACHEL HURLEY-ROCHE







Staff Award for Academic Excellence. The award winners this year were Orla Coffey and Amy Cotter. This award is given to the students who are outstanding in the academic field.

Jasmine Barrett, Laura Carroll, Niamh Cronin, Mariah Meere, Laura Murphy, Hannah O'Sullivan, Gemma O'Sullivan, Jessica Stokes and Alison Woods all received the Staff award for Diligence. The staff award for Diligence is given to the students who have made the greatest effort in their studies during their time in St. Angela's College. It is therefore open to all students, regardless of their ability.

Ella Burke, Theresa Marie O'Shea and Lucy Ray were the recipients of the Sr Caitriona Memorial Trophy. It is awarded to students for their dedication to Social and Community Service.

The O'Connor Constant Cup for proficiency in Speech was awarded to the student who has distinguished themselves in public speaking and debating. The winner this year was Rachel Hurley Roche.

The Sr. Elizabeth Perpetual Trophy recognises the student who has made a significant contribution to liturgy in the school. This year the trophy was awarded to Theresa Marie O'Shea.

The Spirit of St. Angela's Perpetual Award recognises a person who embodies the ethos of the school in their concern for others, their care for the environment and their friendly and kind demeanor. This year the Spirit of St. Angela's Perpetual award was given to a very special person, someone who has taken care of us and our school for many years. That person is Sheila.

Lucy Ray was awarded the McCarthy Cup for General Satisfaction. This is one of the smallest and oldest trophies in terms of size but is perhaps the most prestigious award to win in the school as it goes to the senior student who is voted by her fellow students and teachers for her courtesy, co-operation, generosity and helpfulness, for her class and school spirit and her application to her studies.





# Surviving Covid:

## An Exchange Student's Perspective

The darkest day was the 8th of January 2021. 8,248 Covid cases had been reported in one day. The disease had spread rapidly and Ireland was the world's leader in Covid-19 cases in the seven days to the 10th of January.

The consequences were hard but necessary, involving lockdown, level five restrictions and a limit on moving within a radius of five kilometres. What started as a temporary answer to the high numbers of Covid cases lasted for more than three months. With schools closed it was especially hard for the younger generation to socialize during this time. Online-schooling and Zoom meetings might have allowed us to stay in contact, but could never be a replacement for seeing friends and family in real life.

Creating a social life and finding ourselves through new people and experiences was harder than ever before, and definitely a challenge, especially for our younger generations. A group for which this lockdown was especially extreme were those people at the start of their new lives. Creating a new environment is never easy. Adapting to new surroundings, finding your people and yourself: this is what makes the change, the adventure, the journey. But how do you create a new life from your living room? How can you build bridges? And most important: What motivates you to face this challenge of the unknown on your own?

To get answers to many of these questions I interviewed a special group of experts here in St. Angela's. Melissa and Clara are both exchange students in Fourth year and know what it was like to adapt to a new environment and the challenges they had to face. Moving from one place to another is never easy and can be challenging. Often our expectations look different than the reality, and finding your way through is easier said than accomplished. In this interview the girls tell us about their time in Ireland, the challenges they had to face, the sacrifices they had to make, how they coped in the darkest days and the experiences they gained during their journey.

Melissa is an exchange student from Italy, is 17 years old and has been in Ireland since January 2021. Clara is an exchange student from Spain, 15 years old and came to Ireland in September 2020.

**While reading this article most people will probably ask themselves at least once why you decided to go to Ireland during a global pandemic. You probably hadn't had the chance to experience your exchange as you were supposed to and the sacrifices you made were huge. Still, you're here to study abroad and gain new experiences. Do you think that you chose a bad year to do an exchange?**

**Melissa:** No, I don't think so because the pandemic is in every country, also in Italy. I actually think that the situation is currently better in Ireland. On the other hand, I'm really sorry for the trips that I've missed out on during the last few months as I was really looking forward to travelling around Ireland.

**Clara:** Just like Melissa, I don't think that it's that bad. Through the pandemic we got a totally different experience which we certainly will remember our whole life. It's true, we had to make huge sacrifices and some things were certainly hard, but seeing it as a challenge I think we learnt a

lot from it and had a really good chance to grow with it by taking more responsibility than ever before. Like Melissa said, I feel that in the current situation, our stay in Ireland allows us a lot more activities than we could currently do at home, like visiting the school for example. Another thing that can definitely be seen as positive this year is that we don't miss out much at home as the possibilities are limited everywhere.

**With all the restrictions through the Covid-19 virus, what do you think was the hardest thing this year?**

**Melissa:** The hardest thing this year definitely was making friends. When speaking different languages communication can always be a bit hard, and the fear of getting sick is making everything a lot more difficult. Through the restrictions I didn't have the chance to meet as many people and build new relationships as I would have had without them.

**Clara:** I think the most difficult thing in every

exchange always is building new relationships at the start. With the restrictions this year, the thing I found most difficult was not being able to do all of the great activities that we had planned, like visiting many places in Ireland, or many school activities for example. But also the loss of simple things, like going to the cinema or having a sleepover with your friends, can be annoying sometimes.

**Coming to a new country and not being able to meet other people certainly must be strange. Creating a social life is probably one of the most important things during your stay as it allows you to take better part in a new culture. How was your social life during this exchange?**

**Melissa:** My social life during this exchange actually wasn't as bad as you might imagine it. In fact, there are many other exchange students in my situation, so I still made new friends and was able to learn about other people and their culture.

**Clara:** Like probably everyone else, I felt that at the beginning of my exchange my social life was quite normal as the schools were open and there were many possibilities concerning activities. Only after Christmas I felt how much my social life decreased through the pandemic. Now in the last month of my exchange it's almost as good as at the start because we're able to go to school, which is certainly the main point of our exchange!

**Becoming a new member in a different family is a big step in your exchange. Adapting to new rules and habits can often be challenging and sometimes it takes a while until everything has its "right order". How was the situation in your host family? Did you feel welcomed and could you tell us a bit about them?**

**Melissa:** My host family is composed of my host mom, my host father, my host sister, my host brother, and my roommate, who is also an exchange student. I would describe my host family as very nice, kind and funny. They welcomed me with open arms and we spent a lot of time together. Our favourite activity during the last months was certainly going for walks together.

**Clara:** I don't think I could be luckier with my host family. There are six people at home, including me, my host parents, my host brother and my host sister and another exchange student from Germany. They always make me feel welcomed and we never have problems, which I'm so

thankful for. I think having a good relationship with your host family is a really important thing. Especially this year you spent a lot of time with your family at home, and a nice atmosphere makes things much easier.

**Despite meeting your new host family, going to a new school is another big point of your exchange. How did you find school? Would you say you feel welcomed in St. Angela's?**

**Melissa:** The school system is very well organized, especially in a situation like this. Experiencing a new school during a pandemic is certainly different and gives you an insight which isn't always the same as you would experience without the pandemic, we all know that. Still, my classmates are very kind and immediately invited me to have lunch with them on the first day.

**Clara:** Like I already said, the situation in school seemed to be a bit hard at first. I knew nobody and had to find my way through. I had to get used to many new things that I didn't have to do in Spain or which are simply different. Of course, after the first months I started to get used to things and also made friends.

**Like already said, your exchange differs a lot from other exchange years. Does the comparison sometimes make you feel sad?**

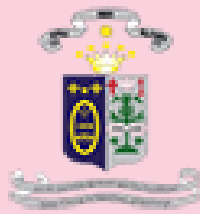
**Melissa:** No, every experience is unique and good in its own way. Even with the pandemic, some things always remain the same, like living in a different family or experiencing self-development. I don't want to compare myself with other exchange students.

**Clara:** Sure, it's true that many things are not as they were supposed to be, but I don't think that my exchange year is completely messed up. Like Melissa said, every experience is different on its own and we have to appreciate all the simple things and good moments, no matter what others might have done before us.

**How do you cope with all that? Any tips for future exchange students?**

**Melissa:** I simply don't compare myself with other exchange students.

**Clara:** Enjoy what you have and appreciate every moment without thinking about what could be different. This is what you get. See it as a challenge for yourself, grow with it!



# ST ANGELA'S COLLEGE



**Talking about differences: What do you think was the biggest difference between your exchange and a "normal" exchange?**

**Melissa:** The biggest differences for me definitely were all the simple things we missed out and were looking forward to: school, trips, finding friends.

**Clara:** The biggest difference for me was the restriction on our contacts, not only for ourselves, but also for the people we live with and have to "protect".

**Even with the Covid-19 restrictions, you still got the chance to visit a new school and learn about the Irish education system. Could you maybe tell us a bit about your school at home and the differences you have experienced in Ireland so far?**

**Melissa:** My school in Italy differs a lot from school here in Ireland. School starts at 8:15 and ends at 2:30. From Monday to Saturday I have six hours of school every day. Another difference is that I go to a mixed school in Italy and we don't have to wear a uniform. A thing I found really interesting in Transition Year was the "subject change". Here I

have the chance to experience a broad range of subjects like "Politics" for example.

**Clara:** I would say that my school in Spain is less modernized than my school in Ireland. In Spain we don't use electronic devices as much as here, laptops for example. Like in Melissa's school, the subjects are different as the way things are taught. I think that the whole education system is quite different in Spain.

**Even though it probably feels like your experience has just started, it's almost over and time for you to go back to your home countries. You certainly experienced and learnt a lot. What are your expectations for the last month in Ireland? Anything you are especially looking forward to?**

**Melissa:** For the last month in Ireland I would like to visit Dublin, and have a few good shopping trips.

**Clara:** I would like to visit the places we haven't visited yet and to enjoy a couple more good days with my wonderful host family and my friends.

So, from the darkest days of early January to the brighter days of June 2021 we wish Melissa, Clara and all the other exchange students who leave us over the coming months a bon voyage, and we hope that surviving the pandemic has taught you just how strong and resilient you really are.



# The Pioneering Achievements of Professor Mary Ryan

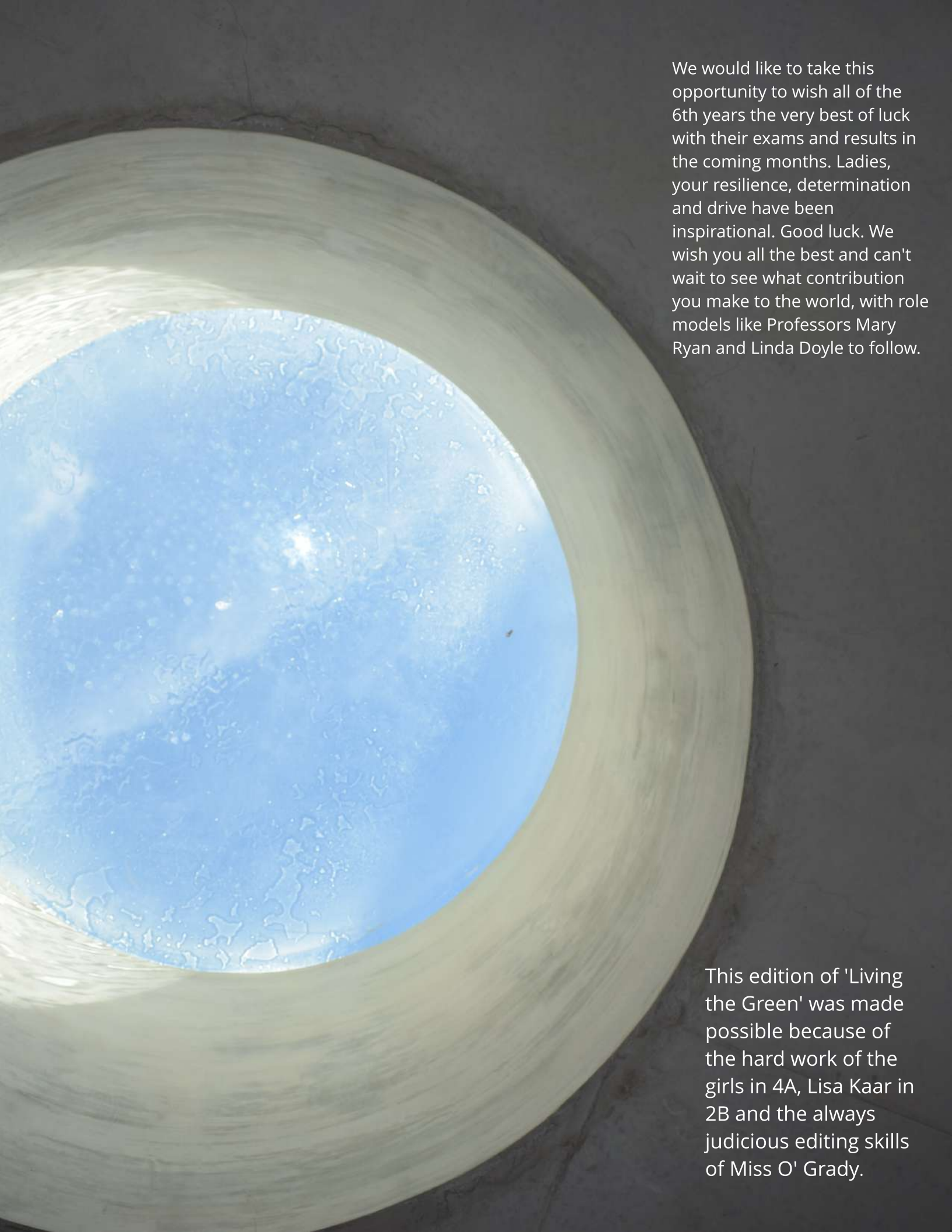


As you have probably already noticed, here in St Angela's College we are extremely proud to have so many successful women who have attended our hallowed halls. This edition of 'Living the Green' has already featured an interview with Professor Linda Doyle on pages 5, 6 and 7. Dr Doyle is part of a legacy that stretches back into the annals of our school history. One of our original trailblazers though, was Mary Ryan, who was the first female university professor on the island of Ireland. You may have heard her name mentioned or seen her picture in displays around our school, but here we would like to provide a little more insight into a woman who embodied the very essence of an Ursuline education.

Mary Ryan was the first student to attend the newly opened St Angela's College for her secondary education in 1887. There, she set in motion a life that would be full of pioneering academic success. She was an exhibitioner (a person who has been awarded a scholarship) and gold medallist in the Intermediate examinations, and in 1891 she enrolled in the Royal University of Ireland (RUI), where she finished 1st Arts with honours and was once again an exhibitioner. Her success was repeated once again in 2nd Arts in 1892. From 1892 to 1893 she spent some time in Germany and France: in the Ursuline convent in Berlin and the Dominican convent in Paris. In 1895, Mary Ryan graduated from RUI with a BA Hons, (where she placed first in her year!) and once again was awarded an exhibition. She held a Junior Fellowship in RUI and taught at St Mary's University College in Dublin and St Angela's College in Cork. She graduated MA in 1896.

On 21 October 1909, she was appointed Lecturer in German at UCC. Then on 25 June 1910 at a meeting of the National University of Ireland, Mary Ryan was appointed Professor of Romance Languages at UCC. She became the first female professor in the entirety of Ireland. She signed the Roll Book at the beginning of the new academic year on 24 October 1910. The title of the professorship later changed to 'French'. During her career she cultivated a love of languages in numerous students, she continued to enjoy considerable academic success and inspired Irish women to smash through any glass ceiling they encountered. Professor Ryan retired in 1938. She stands as a beacon of inspiration to us all and her legacy will endure for generations of St Angela's girls to come.





We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the 6th years the very best of luck with their exams and results in the coming months. Ladies, your resilience, determination and drive have been inspirational. Good luck. We wish you all the best and can't wait to see what contribution you make to the world, with role models like Professors Mary Ryan and Linda Doyle to follow.

This edition of 'Living the Green' was made possible because of the hard work of the girls in 4A, Lisa Kaar in 2B and the always judicious editing skills of Miss O' Grady.