

**Senior Hurling:**

Congratulations to our Senior Hurlers who came from behind in their Leinster B Semi Final against St Brendan's Birr on Saturday at The Faithful Fields to qualify for their first ever Leinster B Final. First half goals from Eoin King and Morgan Finane saw Birr CS lead 2-5 to 0-9 at half time, with seven of the Banagher College points coming from placed balls from Darragh Scully and Shane Rigney. Facing in to a strong cross field wind, the Banagher boys had an uphill struggle but a good start was more than half the battle. And that start came as early as the 32<sup>nd</sup> minute. After good work by Aaron Molloy, Darragh Scully won possession and gave a clever pass to Shane Rigney who pulled first time to the Birr net. This put Banagher in to a lead that they were never to surrender 1-10 to 2-6. Points then flowed from Paul Cannon, Ricky Fitzsimons, and some well taken frees by Shane Rigney to force a three-point lead by the three-quarter stage, 1-13 to 2-7. Points from Sean Carey (a free) and Cathal Robinson reduced the margin with five minutes remaining but Banagher finished in style with an Aaron Molloy point and a good goal by Darragh Scully who was put through by Shane Rigney, who was excellent. Ricky Fitzsimons was also very impressive with Ruairi Kelly, Dáire Daly, Mark Kilkenny and Lee Hogan defending well. The Leinster Final opposition will be provided by Heywood C.S. who have hit thirteen goals in their five games to date.

***Banagher College:*** Éanna Mulhare, Dáire Daly ,Ruairí Kelly, Kian Costello, Robert Duffy, Mark Kilkenny, Lee Hogan, Luke Bowe, Paul Cannon (0-1), Harry Grant, Aaron Molloy (0-1), Niall Flannery (0-1), Shane Rigney (1-8,0-8 frees), Ricky Fitzsimons (0-2), Darragh Scully (1-3,0-3frees).

Subs Used: Michael Boylan for Niall Flannery (inj.) 41 mins, Killian Fitzgerald for Harry Grant 45 mins, Daniel Healy for Robert Duffy 56 mins and Liam Donoghue for Aaron Molloy (inj.) 59 mins.

**Offaly Schools Hurling:**

Hard luck to our students on the Offaly Schools panel which just lost out to St Kieran's College Kilkenny on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> in Rathdowney 0-14 to 0-10 in the Leinster PP Schools Senior A Hurling Semi Final. The starting fifteen here included four Banagher College students Ruairí Kelly, Daire Daly, Shane Rigney and Darragh Scully. Kieran's lead 0-5 to 0-0 before Darragh Scully set up Cathal Robinson for Offaly's first point. Two Shane Rigney points saw Offaly go to the

break five points down 0-10 to 0-5. Unfortunately Offaly only managed two points from play in the second half and Kieran's hung on for an unimpressive win. Other Banagher College students include were Ricky Fitzsimons, Luke Bowe, Éanna Mulhare and Eric Rigney. Banagher College is honoured to have had two of our students, Shane Rigney and Ruairí Kelly appointed Joint Captains of this Offaly Schools Hurling team

### **First & Second Yr Girls Basketball:**

Our First and Second Year Girls played two really worthwhile challenge games on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> when they entertained teams from St Raphaels Loughrea in preparation for upcoming League games.

### **Golf Ireland:**

On Thursday January 25<sup>th</sup> last ,representatives from Golf Ireland paid their second visit during the current school year to Banagher College. Thanks very much to Justin O Byrne from Portumna Golf Club and to Irish Golf Coach Maria Dunne, for taking the time to impart some of their many golfing tips to the students .Maria played for the Great Britain and Ireland team. She hung up her clubs in August 2017.She maximised her talent to enjoy a glittering amateur career and, she's now five years into a new career as a Development & Club Support Officer at Golf Ireland. Both Justin and Maria had lots to teach our students, including the correct swinging form. Chipping nets were set up all around the PE hall and a big inflatable net in the corner to hit Drivers and wedges. Even some of the teachers hit a few shots. All classes got an hour each to play and take shot and it was a most enjoyable experience.

### **Christmas Talent Show 2023:**

The annual Banagher College Christmas Talent Show took place on Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023.This brilliant occasion gives students the opportunity to express themselves and to show off their natural talents. This time it was the very talented Rachel Cleary, a 5<sup>th</sup> year student who started the show off by singing "This is the Life " while playing the guitar brilliantly. Our second act consisted of three Fifth year students (Paul Cahalan, Shain Cleary and Nicholas Perry) hilariously competing in a "Food Processing Challenging". Following on from this we had Clara Doherty singing "Stick Season" and playing the guitar. We then had two Junior students (Freya Maher and Darragh Egan) doing a drama act called "The Hole in The Bucket", This act placed in the top 3, keep reading to find out more.... First Year student, Tommy Farrell O'Brien was the

next act, singing his heavy metal version of “Wake Up Dead” and playing the electric guitar. For the sixth act we had three teams going head-to-head in a County Quiz. Each team consisting of one teacher and one student.

Representing Galway were Evan Mannion and Mr Finnerty with Offaly flag being flown by John Foley and Mr Grogan. The winners however, were the Tipperary duo of Liam Donoghue and Ms Kelly. Kerry Man, Mr Nolan played the role of “Quizmaster” here. Next up we had Ailís Malone doing a dance remix of “Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer”.

For the eight act we had Leaving Cert student Orla Moylan playing piano and singing the Taylor Swift hit “Champagne Problems” .Next up we had First Year student Patrick Larkin playing an instrumental on his accordion. In our tenth act we had Cian Barry singing a Post Malone hit “Wrapped Around Your Finger”. Following Cian, some of our teachers here at Banagher College (Ms. Kilkenny, Ms. Hassett and Ms. Dewane) took part in “The Cube Challenge” Both teachers and students found the challenge an hilarious watch. Next up we had TY students doing a drama sketch of Fr. Ted starring Darren Nevin, Josh Horan and Daniel McDonald. Act Number Thirteen featured Grace O’Connor, Ava Shields, Donnacha Campbell, Saoirse Coughlan, Holly Boyd and Laura Foley who played some traditional tunes on a variety of instruments. This was an amazing opportunity for these young musicians to show off their fabulous talents to their peers. After this, we had some TY students competing in a Dance off, first a group of girls preformed to the song “Don’t Cha”, the second group of boys performed to the song “Sexy Back”, the competition was based on who got the most applause at the end of both dances. The group performing “Sexy Back” received the most applause and won the competition.

Next up was a drama act carried out by some of the teachers (Ms. Hehir, Ms. McNerney, Mr Scales and Mr Coughlan.) Following on from the teacher's Drama Act we had two TY students, Cameron O'Sullivan(Saxophone) and Jack Marshall(Guitar) who sang and played “I'm Just Ken”. Our final act of the day was Two Fifth Year students, Jack Byrne and Rachel Cleary performing the Christmas favourite “Fairy Tale of New York” The overall winners of the day were Freya Maher and Darragh Egan with the drama act “The Hole in the Bucket”. Well done also to the “Tractor Boys” who drove to school on the day on their tractors and raised a princely sum for charity.