

December 2019



ALL SAINTS

CATHOLIC COLLEGE

ORARE LABORARE SERVIRE



FOREWORD | MR A O'NEILL

This Autumn term truly has been a remarkable one—as I hope you will see from the contents of our December review. As a school we have had a very exciting term, with the highlight being our wonderful feast, All Saints Day. We are also delighted by the fact that over 500 families have chosen All Saints as a school for their child in September 2020.

I have also been extremely busy this term engaged with the local authority, the Diocese as well as architects and a project management team on an exciting £4million pound building development that will drastically change the look of our school and the quality of provision we can offer to your child.

I do hope that over the Christmas period you have some quality time with your family and are able to celebrate all of the goodness that life can bring.



A O'Neill









All Saints Day

On November 1, All Saints Catholic College celebrated its feast day. The day was a momentous occasion for the new life of the school community at a time in the academic year when students and teachers are busy learning and teaching. All Saints Day was a special moment to take some time out of the busy schedule of lessons and co-curricular life at the school in order to seek a time for the whole community to gather in prayer and in the celebration of the vibrancy of school life.

Every form in the school took a day to learn more about their house saint amongst their fellow peers. Flags greeted the students as they arrived on the Friday

morning with an ensemble of ‘ Oh When the Saints ‘ by school staff. One student commented: “The flags made me feel really a part of my school and I found the singing by the teachers so inspiring”. Naturally, the students were delighted to have a small rest, as they arrived for the feast day at nine in the morning! In the early part of the day, students gathered in their form groups to understand the lives of saints, to reflect upon the challenges that they faced, and to seek a connection with the saints in order to be called and become the best versions of themselves. Figures like Ignatius Loyola and Simon of Cyrene are members of the house saints of All Saints Catholic College. In 2010,

when Pope Benedict arrived to the United Kingdom, he spoke to every member of the community by noting that we are all called to become saints. This message of hope was the catalyst for the name of the new school and through the reflections on All Saints Day, students were able to seek out the challenges that the Saints faced so they, too, could look to overcoming the challenges in their own lives. A Year 11 student remarked: "All Saints Day gave me the opportunity to see the bigger picture. Sometimes I get stressed with my studies so I felt the day helped me to shape my learning into the wider context of my faith and my life". Another remarkable achievement of the day was the engagement with the students and their own faith. By midday, the breaking of bread together as brothers and sisters of the same community was a time for students between all year groups to sit together and serve and share lunch collectively. Notable appreciation must go to Mr Treanor and Miss Wilkinson for some renditions of old musical classics!

Like all days of celebration, communities must gather to thank God for the gifts and talents of our community. Sometimes, these talents are not always appreciated. For Cicero, a member of the site staff at All Saints, his work is a tireless example of living up to being the

best versions of ourselves. Cicero is a person who never seeks praise yet he actively looks to improve the lives of the students by ensuring the school site is always in the best of shape. Cicero was the first member of the community to be awarded with the new All Saints badges to celebrate the selfless acts of individuals within the school community. After the celebration of Mass, Mr O'Neill called Cicero to the stage where he was received with resounding applause. Cicero is a man of few words but a man of many smiles and he is testament to always remaining positive and focused in his work at this school. Once again, the mass was the focal point of our community and the singing raised the roof in its usual celestial nature.

Catholic education is so vital in building a greater sense of the world because it allows for moments in the school year in order to take stock at what is past, passing or to come. All Saints Day was the first of many. When the students filed out of the school in the afternoon, there was a palpable sense of appreciation for the continuing transformation taking place in the academic and social life of the school. Parents, students and teachers can all welcome the burgeoning ethos of All Saints Catholic College.





that I may bring the
courage demonstrated by
my house saint to help
those in need. I call upon
St. Ignatius to intercede
this prayer, to guide
me through out, this
day.
AMEN

to strengthen our faith in
you. Guide us in our work
to enable us to become more
like you. Encourage us to
look to the examples of
your great saints, to
live our lives in
service to others so
order to fulfil our
mission to
bring about
your Kingdom
here on
earth.
Amen

DEAR GOD,
May everybody in the
thrive academically, and
everyone succeed in tests
exams that are coming.
We thank you
praying for us and
everybody
AMEN



I pray that
Dear Lord,
Cyprian gives me courage
and
jokes that I may
address
Simon of
Cyprus
Amen

Dear Lord,
Can you help out all the students
and we are having a lot of
problems
to do up to the
end of the
year
Thank you
Amen

Help
who bring
dedication to our
school.
Help us to be on about
God's dedication
Blessed to Lord
and bring children
to God's presence
Amen.



ST ANNE

Dear LORD
I pray that
look to the
Example of our
great saints and
also St. Ignatius
AMEN.



Amen

and hard times

Bring
need
prayer
se
bring

From Islington to the Grove

Every morning, Dennis O'Brien makes the busy London commute from Holborn to St. Charles Square. For those that are not local, the prospect of trekking to school by yourself for the first time is daunting and those that do can empathise with having to embrace this step: 'For me it was the biggest challenge because I wasn't used to travelling with no-one. It was a little bit nerve wracking, having no friends and not knowing where I was'.

Dennis, now in Year 8, has the honour of being in the first ever cohort of boys at All Saints. We reflected with Dennis about what made his year successful: 'I think my behaviour really improved because all the teachers helped me. If I ever need help they're always there to support me in all my learning.'

But support comes in many different forms, so we wanted to know what this actually looked like: 'I was stuck on an English test and Ms Burke printed out loads of help and revision work. I used this revision work and I felt I did

a lot better than I would have if I didn't have any of that'. Of course, each student has favourite subjects and teachers but for Dennis, drama is a definite highlight: 'Miss Henry gave me so much experience in acting and she gave me help outside of school. She gave me auditions for things that I wouldn't have been able to do without her.'

Looking towards this year, Dennis was eager to share his enthusiasm about what is in store, especially 'Going to Rome in February. I'm quite looking forward to that because I've never been - I've always wanted to go. Also, I'm going with my friends: It's definitely going to be a fun time!'

But now, as having had a year to reflect on his decision to come to All Saints on his long journeys home; is it worth it?

'Yeah, I really enjoy it. The minute I looked at the school I was like 'this is the one'. I knew I had to come'.





A Parent's Perspective

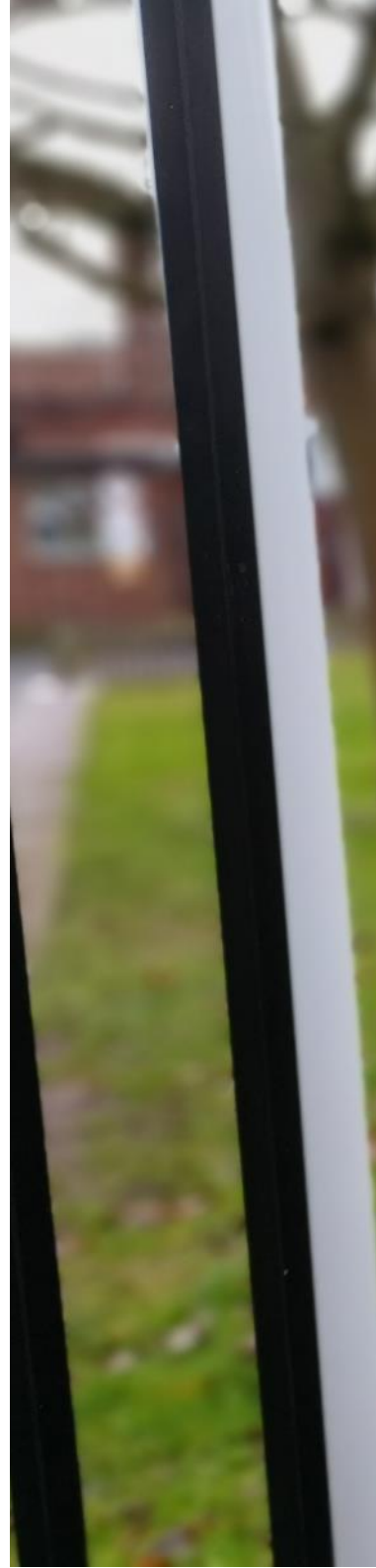
Mariam Thabet has sent six children to the school from 2014 to the present day. Three children are still currently students here, Rama (Y11), Jude (Y10) and Ali (Y7). Rama is the school's current Head Girl. We interviewed Mariam to listen to the experiences she has had as a parent in the rapidly evolving community at All Saints.

Tell us about your relationship with the school?

"When I first came to enroll my eldest two daughters in the school back when it was Sion-Manning, Mrs Leach was the Headteacher. We came from the French system, the girls are fluent in French and Arabic, and they were taken in and welcomed by the teachers and Headteacher at the time. My three younger daughters joined later on and have been at the school

through the transition to All Saints. My youngest child, my son, is now in Year 7. With each of my children joining the school their welcome into the community has been amazing.

When Mrs Leach passed away and there was a change in Headteacher the school went through some unease. However, I think that the staff, especially the teachers, did a good job at that time to keep everything running, so it didn't drastically affect the girls





during that time. And then Mr O'Neill started and I saw a dramatic change! Straight away, the children were coming home week on week talking about all the changes that were going to be made and they were very excited!

I have found that the teachers have always been wonderful; any worries I have they are always there. If I send an email I always get a reply to it quickly. If the children are not doing so well, or they are doing very well, this is communicated to me. There is always someone there to help me, from the staff in reception to the teachers to the Headteacher. And for this I am very grateful.

What has been your experience of the school as it changed from Sion-Manning to All Saints?

Initially, I wasn't too sure about the school becoming a mixed school. I was very fond of it as a girls' school, maybe because I studied at a girls' school. Then, when I opened up to the idea, I realized that my youngest, Ali, would be able to join as well! When I saw that the girls were fine about it and everything was running the same way as it always did, I was happy.

What would you say has left the biggest positive impression on you about the school?

I always feel positive when I see how the girls are. Not just their education but their manners, how they behave, how they speak to others older or younger than them. I like the fact that this is pointed out to my children and their conduct around the school, outside of class, is recognized. A few weeks ago, I had a call from a teacher who had kept my daughter behind because she felt that she was being spoken to in a disrespectful way. I was left feeling pleased that anything that my children are perhaps doing wrong is picked up on quickly, and communicated to me.

Academically, I feel that the teacher plays such an important role in the development of a child, whether they are strong in that subject or not. The teachers here go above and beyond what is expected of them. Last week, my daughter's Chemistry teacher stayed behind after school to help her because she was struggling. They do not need to give up their time, but they do. This is something that I feel all my children have experienced and so I am very fond of the teachers here and really believe that they give everything to the children.



Is there anything that you would have done differently over the time that you have been part of this community? Or anything that you would like to see more of in the future?

I would love to be able to join in on activities at the school – fundraisers, charity events, Christmas or Easter celebrations. I would love to be around my children more to see what they are doing at school, in the school. As my children get older they are with their friends a lot and I don't feel as involved in their lives as I used to. So, this would give me the opportunity to spend more time with them.

Other than that, I have been very satisfied with the school. I always fill out the feedback form at parents' evening based on conversations I have with my children and I think that everything I have requested has actually been done. For example, the renovation of the toilets, the new windows

that help with the air conditioning, the improvements to the hall, everything has been done! So, I think that Mr O'Neill and all the others that are involved in making the changes that are happening are doing a really good job.

How would you describe the All Saints community to someone who has not been part of it?

Wonderful. When I first sent my daughters to the school I had people telling me that the school was awful and that I should not send them there. This happens less now but if I ever speak to others in the community I always, always say that it is not true. It is simply not true. Everything is wonderful. If your daughter or son wants to do well, then they will just love it here.





Catholic Life

Retreats

The Year 7 retreats took place this term with every Year 7 form class heading off to the Catholic Children's Society for a day retreat. Throughout the retreat, students explored what it means to be a student at All Saints, discussing their own individual gifts which they wish to cultivate throughout their five years at school. The pinnacle moment of the day was when students prepared a shared lunch for one another and then sat together as a community to eat. The day ended with a time of prayer and reflection, allowing students to share the qualities they wish to bring to our All Saints community.

Christmas Hampers

The generosity of this school community was truly seen with this year's Christmas hampers for the Catholic Children's Society. The chapel was full of gifts, presents and donations of food after each form donated items and prepared them. They certainly will put a smile on many peoples faces.

Remembrance Services

To mark the month of November, the month where our global Catholic community remember the dead, All Saints Catholic College held remembrance services in the chapel for RE classes in Key Stage 3.

Here, students had the opportunity to pray for those in their own lives, their own communities or the global community, who have gone before us. Whilst in the Chapel, students wrote the name(s) of those they wished to remember on a leaf and added this to the *Tree of Remembrance*.





Closing the Gap

Assistant Headteacher, Ms Nammock (pictured), writes about the imperative need and current drive at All Saints to develop and improve the vocabulary of our students in order to further their life chances.

On the 29th October, all staff attended a meeting focused on the importance of vocabulary building and oracy within the school.

The meeting was based on the research of Alex Quigley, Director of Huntington Research School, English teacher and writer for the TES and Teach Secondary magazine. In his most recent book 'Closing the Vocabulary Gap', Quigley powerfully reminds teachers about the significant responsibility of knowing and sharing a broad and sophisticated vocabulary with the students in their care.

In the book, Quigley makes a poignant point about the concept of closing social inequality:

"Many a politician has been heard promising to 'close the vocabulary gap' of social inequality, but seldom can we credit them for doing so."

Teachers will not end inequality, but one of the biggest points of discussion for staff in the meeting was how best we could shrink these complex issues. In the book, Quigley notably remarks that by "sharing a wealth of words" with our students is one of the small ways we can do so. Deliberately choosing the words we use with students, upgrading words with synonyms and discussing the fascinating origins and meanings of words may seem insignificant, yet if done frequently enough may prove to be transformative for



them. As a staff, we reflected on the quote by George Herbert, Welsh poet, orator and priest:

“Good words are worth much but cost a little”

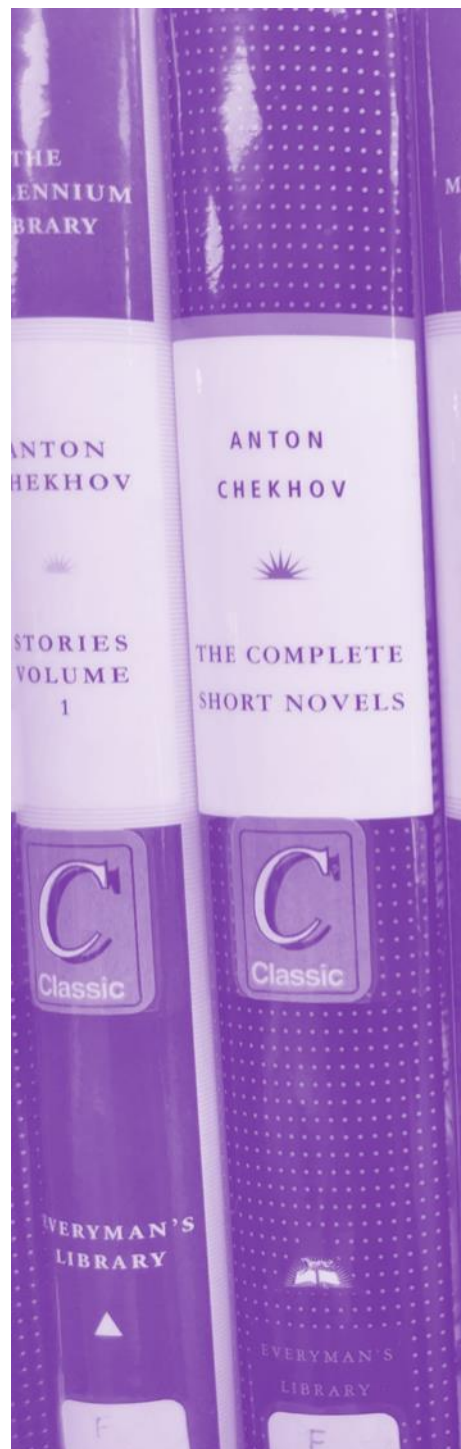
As a staff body, Herbert’s reference to “words” helped us reflect on the conversations we have with our students in classrooms, corridors and break duty: that every little conversation had may introduce our students to new and exciting words they can use themselves.

At All Saints, we see it as our moral duty not only to academically educate the children in our care, but also offer them the vital tools for success in life beyond the school gates. These tools include securing the best possible GCSE results in order to unlock the door to the next stage of their lives. As teachers, we have seen this in the introduction of the new GCSE 9-1 specification, where our students are expected to sit longer, increasingly difficult examinations at every key stage. As you will know, in most subjects your children will have already sat two end of topic assessments, or their mock examinations if they are in Year 11. These assessments at all

levels are rigorous and demanding for the students, which makes the emphasis on vocabulary all the more important to secure their success.

Notably, Quigley points out that the failure of exams is sadly often inextricably linked to a student’s postcode. Essentially, where a student lives has a high chance of determining how well they will do in an examination. At All Saints, and as our best-ever 2019 GCSE demonstrate, we are successful in challenging these obstacles and boundaries that face children today. On average, students at All Saints achieved over half a grade more than expected, reinforcing that our consistently high expectations for all reap rewards. With an added emphasis and focus on the development of vocabulary through staff CPD and INSET, this will only serve to strengthen the achievements of the students in our care.

The ideas discussed in this illuminating academic book were shared with staff as a reminder of the great importance of developing and extending the vocabulary and oracy of the students at All Saints.



THE
MILLENNIUM
LIBRARY

ANTON
CHEKHOV

STORIES
VOLUME 2

C

Classic

EVERYMAN'S
LIBRARY

THE
MILLENNIUM
LIBRARY

WILKIE
COLLINS

THE
MOONSTONE

C

Classic

EVERYMAN'S
LIBRARY

THE
MILLENNIUM
LIBRARY

WILKIE
COLLINS

THE
WOMAN
IN WHITE

C

Classic

EVERYMAN'S
LIBRARY

THE
MILLENNIUM
LIBRARY

JOSEPH
CONRAD

VICTORY

C

Classic

EVERYMAN'S
LIBRARY

THE
MILLENNIUM
LIBRARY

JOSEPH
CONRAD

NOSTROMO

C

Classic

EVERYMAN'S
LIBRARY

THE
MILLENNIUM
LIBRARY

JOSEPH
CONRAD

THE
SECRET
AGENT

C

Classic

EVERYMAN'S
LIBRARY

THE
MILLENNIUM
LIBRARY

JOSEPH
CONRAD

TYPHOID
AND
OTHER
STORIES

C

Classic

EVERYMAN'S
LIBRARY





Some of the key issues raised in the meeting I would like to share with you, because if maintained both at home and at school, will make the most impact on our children. Having the highest expectations for the children in our care is something we should all strive for, and we can work to achieve this by challenging their use of slang words and phrases such as “basically”, “aint”, “literally” and “man”. In order to succeed in whatever they wish to achieve, whether it be a sixth form, university or work interview; our children must be able to articulate themselves eloquently and confidently as well as recognising the need for formality in certain situations.

Lastly, the book points towards the vital importance of parents talking to children at home. Evidence points towards the vocabulary gap discussed earlier in this article as beginning far before children attend school, and only widening as they get older. Statistically, children from affluent backgrounds are exposed to on average, 32 million more words than children from disadvantaged families, and it is the talk-gap as opposed to the education of parents, economic status or race that points to this huge gap. Talking to our children about current affairs, news stories, novels they are reading or asking questions about their day at school, subjects and clubs can also help to narrow the vocabulary gap that exists and inhibits students from thriving academically.

Therefore both parents and staff can work together in order to equip our students and children with the tools necessary to leave All Saints as confident, articulate and successful young people.





The 'Old Bill'

After five years working for the Metropolitan police, Mr Billy Forshaw talks about his change of career into teaching his first term at All Saints.

You used to be a police officer for a number of years before changing to be a teacher. Why?

I did! For almost five years. I think that I always knew I wanted to and was going to be a teacher but a part of me wanted to try something else first – something that nobody expected me to do. I was travelling and saw an advert online and thought 'I could do that'... so I did!

Why did you choose All Saints Catholic College as a place to work?

I was actually taught by several of the teachers at All Saints – I

was reunited with Mr O'Neill at a charity event a couple of years ago and he asked me if I wanted to be a teacher. I said that I was quite comfortable where I was but he said that if I ever changed my mind, get in touch. Two years later I emailed him and he emailed me back two minutes later asking me to come and visit!

What were your first impressions when you came to the school?

I loved it. Every member of staff was so welcoming from the moment I arrived. Some even came and introduced

themselves because they thought I looked new and asked what I was doing there – I'm not sure I would have got that kind of welcome anywhere else! The students were polite, it just made such a good first impression. I think I had made my mind up a few minutes into my first visit.

Were you nervous when you first started and, if so why?

Yes. Very. Being a career-changer, I was worried that I would feel I had made the wrong choice or that I simply wouldn't be a good teacher. I did have a slight advantage in that I knew several of the teachers at our school already. Either they had taught me at school or I went to school with them! So they really helped me settle in quickly.

What do you like the most about working in a school and why?

I get to try and make students as excited about English as I am every day. That is something that I absolutely love. I also enjoy the interactions with teachers and students – it really feels like we are all on the same journey and everything we do can help each other to improve in some way. Not just in the classroom, but outside of it too.

What do you find the most challenging aspect of teaching?

Having always loved and then studied

English up to MA level, there are some aspects of the subject that now come naturally to me that I don't really need to think about to do. Of course, English is not going to be everybody's favourite subject and some might find it difficult – I always have to make sure that that I'm not taking this for granted and that I am endeavouring to share my knowledge and ensure that students understand it. I enjoy this challenge very much!

What do you think were your best achievements in teaching have been so far and why?

Having students come up to me and tell me that they really enjoyed a particular lesson or that English is now their favourite subject so early on in my career has been so nice to hear. This is why I joined the profession! Also, those *lightbulb* moments when a student understands some foreshadowing or extended metaphor – those are great too.

What were your favourite subjects at school and why?


English, of course. I loved the subject and I never had a bad English teacher - quite the opposite. I have been getting lost in books since I can remember and getting the chance to study them made me extremely happy. Also, History. I went on to study both at University.







The Future All Saints

A photograph of a brick building with a large window, partially obscured by a sketch of a building facade. The sketch shows a modern building with a grid of windows and a dark horizontal band. The photograph shows a brick wall and a window with a dark frame. The sky is visible in the background.

Over the course of this half-term, Mr O'Neill has been extremely busy working on a number of exciting building projects. Alongside a team of architects, the Diocese and the local authority we are planning a £4million build project at the school. This is an extremely exciting time for All Saints, and the investment of funds from the local authority is due in large part to the rising popularity of All Saints as a strong local school. Whilst plans are still under review, the money will be spent on installing a new block in the school that will house state-of-the-art music facilities. Furthermore, large parts of the school will be renovated and refurbished including the installation of Design & Technology facilities. Within the next two years, the school will look completely different to how it did three years ago. All of this has been the result of negotiations on

the part of Mr O'Neill to secure this additional funding for the benefit of your child. More information will follow as the plans and designs begin to take shape.

In addition, over this half term, works were completed on our brand new Romero centre for students with Special Educational Needs. Our SEN team moved in a large well equipped space as well as having a brand new kitchen in order to teach some of our students home-cooking skills.

Also, earlier in this half term, Mr O'Neill submitted a bid to the Diocese of Westminster for funds to renovate the student toilets in the South Block as well as expand the PE changing facilities. The school will find out if this bid has been successful in April 2020 with the aim that works will be completed in Summer 2020.



THAT OUR DAUGHTERS MAY BE AS THE POLISHED CORNERS OF THE TEMPLE

F

H

C

G

A Wonderful Opportunity

This November, on a bright and fresh Friday morning, selected students from Year 11 were invited to attend formal examinations and an interview at Francis Holland, one of the most prestigious schools in the country. The Headmaster Mr Charles Fillingham has offered five fully funded Sixth Form bursary places to All Saints students to a value of £42,000 each, £210,000 in total.

Rama Thabet, Dina Scali, Iffah Masuk, Rayan Gergees and Makai Edwards all succeeded in winning for a place, dependant on GCSE results

next summer. This is an extraordinary achievement for our students who managed to excel in the entrance examinations and in their interviews at the school. An exciting collaboration awaits between All Saints Catholic College and Francis Holland School for future opportunities for our community. It is with deep appreciation that we thank Francis Holland School for acknowledging the academic brilliance within our own students. These are certainly exciting times at All Saints!

Ten years and still standing

This year sees Mr Mahon celebrating his 10th year at All Saints Catholic College. To mark the occasion, we asked Mr Mahon to share his experience of teaching on the square, and to give us an insight into what has driven his passion for teaching English to the students of W10 over the last decade.

A native of Ireland, Mr Mahon arrived in Ladbrooke Grove in July 2009 via Oxford University, where he completed his Masters Degree. The draw to public service, and specifically teaching, is one that Mr Mahon ascribes to his grandmother, who herself was a Principal of a school in Ireland. He recalls her tales of the classroom, and

equates these stories as his motivation to pursue the role himself. Upon arriving at what was then Sion-Manning Catholic Girls' School, Mr Mahon says he was immediately seduced by the vibrancy as well as the inclusive and caring nature of the local community. His passion for literature, and his desire to share this with the students was evident from the outset.

The last decade's been a busy one for Mr Mahon. From training as a teacher of English at Sion-Manning to leading the department; and to the present day, as Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Teaching and Learning throughout the







Accelerated Reader

Accelerated Reader

READING

A word on three about
book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

book

“I have come so that
you might have life,
life in all its fullness.”

John 10:10