

Rathfeigh National School from Seamus Tansley

Our Fantastic Sixth Class

Our Sixth class will be leaving Rathfeigh NS officially in a few weeks. They have been a fantastic addition to our school. This is my letter to our fantastic sixth class pupils.

My time as principal has coincided with your eight years spent in Rathfeigh N.S. I was appointed principal in March 2012 and the graduation class of 2020 started a few months later in September 2012. I remember you starting in Junior Infants. On that day there was a mixture of nervousness, tears and laughter. I remember seeing tears in some eyes – children and parents/guardians!

Over the last eight years I have seen you engage productively with your school work, make friends and engage in numerous formative experiences in school. I'm sure you all have your own personal memories of your time in Rathfeigh - playing with your friends, field trips, school tours, gaelic football, rounders, orienteering, jumble sales, extra play, pancake Tuesday, sports days, talent shows, carol services, centenary of the 1916 Rising, retirement party, "Beast from the East", ice-cream vans and many more. It has been great seeing you enjoy all these activities over the last eight years and you are now leaving the school as mature, educated and well-rounded young adults.

Of course the unprecedented coronavirus pandemic put a sudden end to the school year and your graduation. This is disappointing and upsetting for you, your family and for the teachers. Nonetheless you have shown great resilience and strength of character over the last few months which is a credit to you all. You have continued with your school work at home and have responded very positively with the online learning platform Edmodo and Zoom. This, of course, has been very challenging for you but your positivity has got you through the difficult time.

I, personally, will miss you all hugely having taught you in Fourth and Fifth class. In those two years I saw you all mature greatly. I will miss your humour and laughter on a daily basis which was interspersed with the occasional tears. I remember very fondly all the gaelic football and rounders matches we played on the school field especially in the sunny weather. More importantly I will remember the great contributions that you all made to making our school a better place for which I thank you.

As one chapter of your life ends the next chapter begins. You have made great friends and memories in Rathfeigh but I'm sure you'll make equally good friends and memories in Secondary school. Secondary school will pose different challenges but you have the necessary skills to deal with these challenges.

I wish you all happiness and success in everything you do in future years. The doors in Rathfeigh will always be open to you and you will always be welcome in the school and I'm sure some of you will be returning to do work placement for Transition Year.

Finally going forward - *Be bold enough to use your voice, brave enough to listen to your heart and strong enough to live the life you've always imagined.* Best of luck to you all!

