

Presentation College Headford, Co. Galway



Acting Principal: Aisling McAlpine Yearbook Address



This wonderful production gives you a flavour of the wide variety of activities recorded within PCH over the course of the last academic year. Once again, Mr. Kelly and his TY and 5th Year editorial team have done another magnificent job in producing a lasting record of the vibrant life of Presentation College Headford for the year 2019/2020. To them I offer my sincere and heartfelt appreciation.

Sometimes schools are regarded as places where students learn, teachers teach and points are produced at the end of a five or six- year cycle. And yet, of course, an education is so much more. We want our students in PCH to achieve their full potential academically, but we also want to truly educate, so that a PCH student is grounded, rounded and a 'sound' human being. It is my wish for each of you that you are capable of making the most of whatever comes your way beyond the gates of PCH and that you get the 'point' of your learning in addition to whatever 'points' you may need for the next part of your journey.

It is hard to believe that all our lives have changed so dramatically over the past few weeks with the arrival of COVID-19. We are the generation of learners who have had to become conscious of the need to be able to deal with change. Personally speaking, the importance of being able to deal with change has a whole new meaning now, and has taken on a reality that is very challenging. However, the students you will read about in this publication are equipped to rise to that challenge. You are managing so well considering all the uncertainty that is in your lives at present. The spirit and resilience you all have demonstrated in the recent past is to be admired.

I would like to thank all of your teachers too for their commitment to your education. They have selflessly given endless hours to you both in curricular and extracurricular. I express my sincere gratitude to you. Thank you for your work in taking care of our students, not least over the past few weeks. Thank you to your parents and families for their support of our school community also- we appreciate your goodwill and involvement.

Finally I would also like to thank you, our students, for the wonderful contribution you make to school life. You are a pleasure to work for, and with, and I wish every one of you, a happy and safe summer and look forward to welcoming you back to the classrooms and corridors of PCH, sooner rather than later!

To the 6th Years, you are my first Leaving Certificate year group as Principal in PCH so you will always be special to me. I hope that every new chapter you make is more interesting than your last.

I leave you all with some advice which will never see you go too far wrong. *I ask you to read it carefully and think about the message!*

Today is your Day – Dr. Seuss

*Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You're off to Great Places!
You're off and away!*

*You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself
any direction you choose.
You're on your own. And you know what you know.
And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go.*

*You'll look up and down streets. Look 'em over with care.
About some you will say, "I don't choose to go there."
With your head full of brains and your shoes full of feet,
you're too smart to go down any not-so-good street.*

*And you may not find any
you'll want to go down.
In that case, of course,
you'll head straight out of town.
It's opener there
in the wide open air.*

*Out there things can happen
and frequently do
to people as brainy
and footsy as you.*

*And then things start to happen,
don't worry. Don't stew.
Just go right along.
You'll start happening too.*

*OH!
THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!*

*You'll be on your way up!
You'll be seeing great sights!
You'll join the high fliers
who soar to high heights.*

*You won't lag behind, because you'll have the speed.
You'll pass the whole gang and you'll soon take the lead.
Wherever you fly, you'll be best of the best.
Wherever you go, you will top all the rest.*

*Except when you don't.
Because, sometimes, you won't.*

*I'm sorry to say so
but, sadly, it's true
that Bang-ups
and Hang-ups
can happen to you.*

*You can get all hung up
in a prickle-ly perch.
And your gang will fly on.
You'll be left in a Lurch.*

*You'll come down from the Lurch
with an unpleasant bump.
And the chances are, then,
that you'll be in a Slump.*

*And when you're in a Slump,
you're not in for much fun.
Un-slumping yourself
is not easily done.*

*You will come to a place where the streets are not marked.
Some windows are lighted. But mostly they're darked.
A place you could sprain both your elbow and chin!
Do you dare to stay out? Do you dare to go in?
How much can you lose? How much can you win?*

*And IF you go in, should you turn left or right...
or right-and-three-quarters? Or, maybe, not quite?
Or go around back and sneak in from behind?
Simple it's not, I'm afraid you will find,
for a mind-maker-upper to make up his mind.*

*You can get so confused
that you'll start in to race
down long wiggled roads at a break-necking pace
and grind on for miles cross weirdish wild space,
headed, I fear, toward a most useless place.
The Waiting Place...*

*...for people just waiting.
Waiting for a train to go
or a bus to come, or a plane to go
or the mail to come, or the rain to go
or the phone to ring, or the snow to snow
or the waiting around for a Yes or No
or waiting for their hair to grow.
Everyone is just waiting.*

Waiting for the fish to bite

*or waiting for the wind to fly a kite
or waiting around for Friday night
or waiting, perhaps, for their Uncle Jake
or a pot to boil, or a Better Break
or a string of pearls, or a pair of pants
or a wig with curls, or Another Chance.
Everyone is just waiting.*

*NO!
That's not for you!*

*Somehow you'll escape
all that waiting and staying
You'll find the bright places
where Boom Bands are playing.*

*With banner flip-flapping,
once more you'll ride high!
Ready for anything under the sky.
Ready because you're that kind of a guy!*

*Oh, the places you'll go! There is fun to be done!
There are points to be scored. There are games to be won.
And the magical things you can do with that ball
will make you the winning-est winner of all.
Fame! You'll be as famous as famous can be,
with the whole wide world watching you win on TV.*

*Except when they don't
Because, sometimes they won't.*

*I'm afraid that sometimes
you'll play lonely games too.
Games you can't win
'cause you'll play against you.*

*All Alone!
Whether you like it or not,
Alone will be something
you'll be quite a lot.*

*And when you're alone, there's a very good chance
you'll meet things that scare you right out of your pants.
There are some, down the road between hither and yon,
that can scare you so much you won't want to go on.*

*But on you will go
though the weather be foul.
On you will go
though your enemies prowl.
On you will go*

*though the Hakken-Kraks howl.
Onward up many
a frightening creek,
though your arms may get sore
and your sneakers may leak.*

*On and on you will hike,
And I know you'll hike far
and face up to your problems
whatever they are.*

*You'll get mixed up, of course,
as you already know.
You'll get mixed up
with many strange birds as you go.
So be sure when you step.
Step with care and great tact
and remember that Life's
a Great Balancing Act.
Just never forget to be dexterous and deft.
And never mix up your right foot with your left.*

*And will you succeed?
Yes! You will, indeed!
(98 and 3/4 percent guaranteed.)*

KID, YOU'LL MOVE MOUNTAINS!

*So...
be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray
or Mordecai, Ali, Van Allen, O'Shea,
You're off the Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting.
So...get on your way!*

Stay well, stay safe and for now, stay home!

Every good wish,

*Aisling Mc Alpine
Acting Principal, Presentation College, Headford, Co. Galway*