

## HISTORY OF ST. FINTAN'S

**On 8th September 1943, St. Fintan's High School opened its doors for the first time to a student enrolment of 48 boys and a teaching staff of 5 Christian Brothers.**



St Fintan's Crest

In those days St. Fintan's High School was a fee paying preparatory and secondary school, with fees ranging from 6 to 12 guineas, depending on the standard of the pupil! Its location on the Burrow Road ensured that the students of the time forever associated their school days with the sun, the seascape and the freedom of the beach.

In September 1972, and following various transformations, St. Fintan's High School commenced life as a secondary school on its new site overlooking Dublin Bay where it remains to this present day. To learn more about the history of our school, I would recommend reading our soon to be published 'History of St. Fintan's High School' which will go on sale shortly. Written by Mr. Shane Gilleran, a History and Geography teacher in the school, it is a wonderful record of the origins and evolution of St. Fintan's. Shane's book describes the contributions made by brothers, principals, deputy principals, teachers, students, past pupils, boards of management, parents and the surrounding community to the development and growth of the school since 1943. Decade by decade, it details the challenges and opportunities experienced by our local community and society at the time, as well as the corresponding events, progression and transformation of the school. It provides a wonderful insight into the lives of our past pupils and the fond memories they have of their life at St. Fintan's.

Today, St. Fintan's is under the Trusteeship of ERST, the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (click here for the [Charter - Edmund Rice Schools Trust](#)) and has over 700 students and 50 teachers. Much has changed since 1943; however, it is clear that the traditions and core values of St.

Fintan's High School are not too far removed from those that prevailed during the 'Burrow Days'. Teaching and learning still take pride of place in our school curriculum and St. Fintan's High School is proud of its strong academic tradition. An emphasis on sport has always been a hallmark of education in the school, and excellence in music and the arts is still strongly encouraged and promoted. In fact, our tradition of staging the annual school musical has its origins in the earliest years of the school when students delighted audiences with their performances of an original operetta called 'Treasure Trove' in 1944, followed by 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin' in 1945.

St. Fintan's High School aspires to promote full personal and social development in a caring, Christian community. We still hold dear all that is valuable and unique in each student and aim to provide a broad curriculum which caters for the many needs of our diverse student population. Just as it did in 1943, the school seeks to support all our boys as they prepare to find their place in the world where they can lead fulfilling, rewarding and happy lives.

**Principals of St. Fintan's High School:**

Rev. Brother P.J. Welsh	1943-1948
Rev. Brother T.N. MacDonnchadha	1948-1954
Rev. Brother R.O. O'Driscoll	1954-1960
Rev. Brother J.C. Finn	1960-1963
Rev. Brother O'Muineachain	1963-1966
Rev. Brother P.V. Russell	1966-1971
Rev. Brother Christopher Kierans	1971- 1973
Rev. Brother John O'Kelly	1973-1975
Rev. Brother Thomas Purcell	1975-1980
Rev. Brother John Burke	1960-1986
Mr. William McCartney	1986-1998
Mr Richard Fogarty	1998-2006
Mr Raymond Quinn	2006-2010
Ms. Mary Fox	2010-2020
Ms Kathy Mullen	2020 - present

