Interview with my grandad by Cillian Geraghty

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**Name of interviewer: Cillian Geraghty**

**Name of interviewee: Joe Durkin**

**Method of interview: By phone**

**Length of interview: 10 minutes**

**Questions that I asked my grandad.**

1. **What was school like when you were growing up?**

It was good. I attended St. Michael’s school in Longford town for my primary school years. School started at 9:00 am and finished 3:30 pm. I was on the Gaelic football team with some of my friends when I was in primary school. For secondary school I went to a boarding school. I attended Gormanston College or Coláiste San Froinsias, Rinn Mhic Gormáin (as Gaeilge) in Co. Meath. In my day it was a Catholic school run by the Franciscan order. The Franciscan friars were very kind to us, they were excellent teachers and I have many happy memories of my time there. The brothers wore a brown habit with a hood, a cord and sandals. We were allowed home at Christmas, Easter and for the summer holidays.

1. **What is your happiest memory of when you were in school?**

My happiest memories from boarding school are when I went to watch the Gaelic football matches with my friends. I also liked to jump on the trampoline in the hall. The school had a swimming pool and that is where I learned to swim. At that time when I started secondary school there was no public swimming pool in Longford town. The college had a lot of excellent facilities to keep us busy.

1. **What was your favourite subject?**

My favourite subject was Gaeilge. Thaitin an Ghaeilge go mór liom.

1. **Who did you look up to when you were a child?**

When I was a child I looked up to Elvis Presley. I styled my hair like his.

1. **What games did you play with your friends in school?**

I played table tennis, Gaelic football and Hurling. In primary school I was on the Gaelic football team and one year we won the school league.

1. **What is the biggest adventure that you have been on?**

On my first journey to boarding school, I had to wave goodbye to my family and get the train to Dublin. When the train stopped in Dublin I had a few hours to pass before getting another train to Gormanston. It was an adventure to travel by myself on the train.

1. **What advice would you give to a young person growing up today?**

I suppose it is important to study hard in school, exercise and to enjoy life.