

# E-SÍOL

## Autumn 2025



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís  
Edmund Rice Schools Trust

## Welcome to the Autumn 2025 edition of eSíol.

I am pleased to introduce this edition of eSíol, the magazine of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust. Across our network of 96 schools, a seed (síol) is nurtured daily through the dedication, creativity, and faith-inspired service of our staff, students, and families.

As a community of Edmund Rice schools, we are united by a shared vision — to offer an education that is inclusive, compassionate, and transformative. Our schools are places where young people are encouraged to think deeply, act justly, and serve generously. They are spaces where the values of respect, care, and courage are lived out in classrooms, corridors, and communities every day.

In this issue, you will find stories that celebrate the vibrant life of our schools — stories of innovation in teaching and learning, of commitment to justice and care for the earth, of leadership and creativity among students, and of the strong partnerships that sustain our work. Each contribution is a reminder of the strength that comes from being part of something larger than ourselves — a network rooted in the Edmund Rice tradition and open to the future with hope and confidence.

As we continue to navigate a changing educational landscape, eSíol offers us a space to share ideas, celebrate achievements, and reaffirm what unites us. May the voices and images gathered here inspire us to keep sowing seeds of faith, learning, and love — confident that they will bear fruit in the lives of those we serve.

**Gerry Bennett**  
**Chief Executive**

### Contributors

1	Mount Sion Primary Waterford	15	Coláiste Choilm Swords
2	St Mary's Academy Carlow	16	Oatlands College
3	Rice College Westport	17	Coláiste Mhichíl Limerick
4	Ardscoil na Mara Tramore	18	New Ross CBS
5	CBC Cork	19	Doon CBS Primary School
6	Woodbrook College Bray	20	Scoil Íosagáin Limerick
7	Ardscoil Rís Limerick	21	Ardscoil Rís Dublin
8	Portlaoise CBS	22	Waterpark College
9	CER Cork	23	CBC Kilkenny
10	ERSS Carrick on Suir	24	The Abbey Tipperary
11	Charleville CBS	25	Coláiste Phádraig Lucan
12	High School Clonmel		
13	Dungarvan CBS		
14	Coláiste Íosagáin Baile Átha Cliath		

# Mount Sion Primary School



## Edmund Rice Charter: Excelling in Teaching and Learning 6th Class Visit the ARC

Recently, our 6th class had the exciting opportunity to take part in BIM's Aquaculture Remote Classroom (ARC) when it visited our school. The ARC is a mobile classroom run by BIM, Ireland's Seafood Development Agency, and it's designed to help pupils learn all about aquaculture — the farming of plants and animals in the water — in a fun and interactive way.

Inside the ARC, we got to explore the world beneath the waves through virtual reality (VR) headsets, which allowed us to 'dive' deep under the sea to see how salmon, oysters, and mussels are farmed in Ireland. The facilitators from BIM were enthusiastic and knowledgeable, making the whole experience even more enjoyable.



The session was hands-on, immersive, and educational. Everyone learned so many new facts about aquaculture and how important it is for Ireland's seafood industry and environment. The students loved every minute — from the fascinating videos to the interactive technology that brought marine life right before our eyes.

Overall, our day with the ARC was a fantastic learning experience that combined education and fun in the best possible way. It really opened our eyes to the amazing world of aquaculture and the vital role it plays in our country.

## **Student Council 2025**

### **Edmund Rice Charter: Inspiring Transformational Leadership and Creating a Caring School Community**

The new student council consists of Amir Quinlan Chairman , Scott Kelly Vice Chairman of the student council, Tary Manoel Piana Treasurer and Kayden Hodgers Secretary of the student council. The other members include James Coughlan, Sam Grant, Patrick Purcell, Michael M. and Kerfala Toure.



## **Proposals for the Year**

Fundraiser for Gaza

Student Council Badges

Fun Yard Equipment

Litter Picking/ Cleaner Yards

Recycling Plan

## Maths Week

### Edmund Rice Charter: Excelling in Teaching and Learning

Ms. Cheasty's and Ms. Power's 5th class along with their support teacher Ms. Norris went to Peoples Park in Waterford to work their Maths eyes. All the boys worked together as a team to calculate the age of their favourite trees. Each group got to work measuring the tree's circumference with their measuring tapes. They also identified angles in the environment with their angle finders. They made symmetrical patterns using Autumn materials. The boys really enjoyed doing the Maths activities for Maths week.



## Buddy Reading

All classes in Mount Sion look forward to Friday mornings where each younger class buddies up with an older class to help with Literacy. Take a look at Ms. Meehan's senior infant class working on making CVC words with Ms. Power's 5th class. The 5th class boys love the responsibility of helping their young buddy. Together they develop respect, empathy and understanding. The buddy program fosters a whole -school community and creates friendships.



# St Mary's Academy Carlow

## National Battery Recycling Champions - Caring for the Earth

St Mary's Academy CBS Carlow has been crowned Battery Recycling Champions in the national WEEE Ireland Schools Battery Recycling Competition, thanks to the dedication of its Green Schools Committee and the wider school community.

The school gathered an impressive 28,000 used batteries, adding to a national total of more than 1.5 million batteries recycled by schools across Ireland. This achievement earned a €2,000 sports voucher in recognition of the school's commitment to sustainability and environmental education.

The Green Schools Committee approached the challenge as a SMART goal—Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound. They launched awareness campaigns during peak battery disposal periods such as Halloween and Christmas, using posters, staff emails, and social media to rally support.

The campaign reached beyond the school grounds, involving families, friends, and neighbours. Their Instagram campaign alone connected with over 1,700 followers, and the initiative was regularly highlighted in the school newsletter. Students even uncovered hidden sources of batteries in places like digital thermometers and pH testers in the science labs, underlining the importance of awareness in recycling.

The most rewarding aspect was seeing the entire community unite around a cause that protects both people and the planet. The initiative inspired classroom and staffroom discussions, reinforcing the message that small actions can create big change.





### **CBS Past Pupils Honoured with the Heather Cowan Award**

Two past pupils of CBS Carlow, Jake Murphy and Alessandro Hutton, were proudly presented with the Heather Cowan Award this morning at St. Clare's Church, Graiguecullen.

Both young men, members of the Graiguecullen parish, were recognised for their outstanding contribution to their community and for living out the values that the award represents.

The Heather Cowan Award is a special honour within the parish, celebrating young people who demonstrate kindness, leadership, and a generous spirit in their daily lives.





It recognises those who make a positive difference in their schools, communities, and parishes — qualities that Jake and Alessandro have clearly shown. All at CBS Carlow extend their warmest congratulations to Jake and Alessandro on this wonderful achievement. Their recognition is a testament to their character and to the strong connection between our school and the Graiguecullen parish community.

### **Future Leaders in CBS receive a gold award in Croke Park**

We were delighted to celebrate our 2024 Transition Year students achievement. Winning the GAA Future Leaders Gold Schools Award. This outstanding honour recognises the dedication, teamwork, and initiative each of them showed while completing the Future Leaders Programme.

Over the year, CBS Transition Year students immersed themselves in a wide range of modules, from coaching and refereeing to event management. They planned and delivered real GAA activities within the school, Primary Schools coaching, organised GAA blitz and captured your journey through detailed e- portfolios. Every step required commitment, creativity, and leadership qualities to support our school community.





Earning the Gold Award is a remarkable achievement. It highlights their ability to lead, communicate, and inspire others. They have proven that leadership is about service, responsibility, and making a positive impact.

We are immensely proud of the enthusiasm and professionalism all students displayed throughout the programme. Your success brings great pride to our school and sets a shining example for younger students to follow.

Congratulations once again to each Future Leader your hard work and dedication truly embody the spirit of the GAA and the values of our school community.



## Peace and Justice Committee Bake Sale Supports UNICEF Gaza Appeal

On Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, members of the CBS Carlow Peace and Justice Committee hosted a charity bake sale during morning break in support of the UNICEF Gaza Appeal. The event drew a wonderful response from students and staff alike, who generously supported the cause while enjoying an array of delicious homemade treats. The bake sale was more than just a display of culinary talent — it reflected the Edmund Rice ethos in action, highlighting compassion, solidarity, and social awareness among our students. Every cake, bun, and brownie sold represented a small but meaningful step toward helping those most in need.

Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of the school community, the committee raised an impressive €630 for UNICEF's vital humanitarian work in Gaza. This donation will help provide essential supplies such as food, clean water, and medical care to children and families affected by the ongoing crisis.



A sincere well done to all members of the Peace and Justice Committee for their dedication, teamwork, and commitment to living out the values of care and justice that are at the heart of the Edmund Rice tradition. Their efforts remind us that even small acts of kindness can have a global impact.

## Globe Program Ireland Air Quality

From the 25th September to the 23rd October 2025 second years at St. Mary's Academy CBS along with their teacher Ms Fitzharris gathered primary data for the Globe Program Ireland Air Quality project sponsored by NASA and the EPA.

St Mary's Academy CBS is one of 200 schools in Ireland partaking in this project. It is a worldwide citizen research project that is being carried out in 120 countries. It is gathering primary data on the amount of traffic related pollutant, nitrogen dioxide, that is in the air around our school.

This project is equipping our students with the skills to become citizen scientists. Another step our school is taking this week to increase our environmental awareness. We look forward to sharing more about our project later in the year.



# Rice College Westport

## Friendship Week 2025

We held our annual Friendship Week in September. The theme of the week was "Friends are the people who make you smile brighter, laugh louder and live better." We launched the week by taking our first ever coeducation year group photograph. Our photographer and past pupil Micheál was delighted to capture this historic moment for our school.

Our TY Wellbeing Team was busy this week coordinating and organising activities for our 1st year students. The TY Wellbeing Team organised board games in the Assembly Area, Bingo for all class groups and Wellbeing Walks on the Greenway.

Fr Kenny invited our 1st year students, their teachers and families to celebrate an Opening Mass in St Mary's Church. The students participated in the mass which was themed "New Beginnings".

During Friendship Week students listened to a presentation about cyberbullying which was delivered by our Community Garda and made posters in SPHE class as part of our Bí Cineálta policy development. On Wednesday students attended a performance of a play which had a strong anti-bullying message and students wore Odd Socks to celebrate difference. A number of students customised their socks by using some of their new learning and vocabulary. The key learning from this important week in our school calendar is that bullying is not tolerated in our school and as a school community we are striving to create a safe learning environment for our students.



## Coiste Gaelbhrtach

Members of our school's First Year Gaelbhrtach Committee were delighted to share their motto in relation to the Irish language in school:

'Beatha teanga í a labhairt' (The life of a language is to speak it).

They are eagerly preparing many exciting initiatives in Irish for students in First Year during the lunchtime Irish Club.

Our school's Gaelbhrtach committee are really looking forward to delivering our school's action packed Irish event 'Gaeilge 24' in November under Gaelbhrtach Irish language incentive scheme.

Maith sibh a chairde.

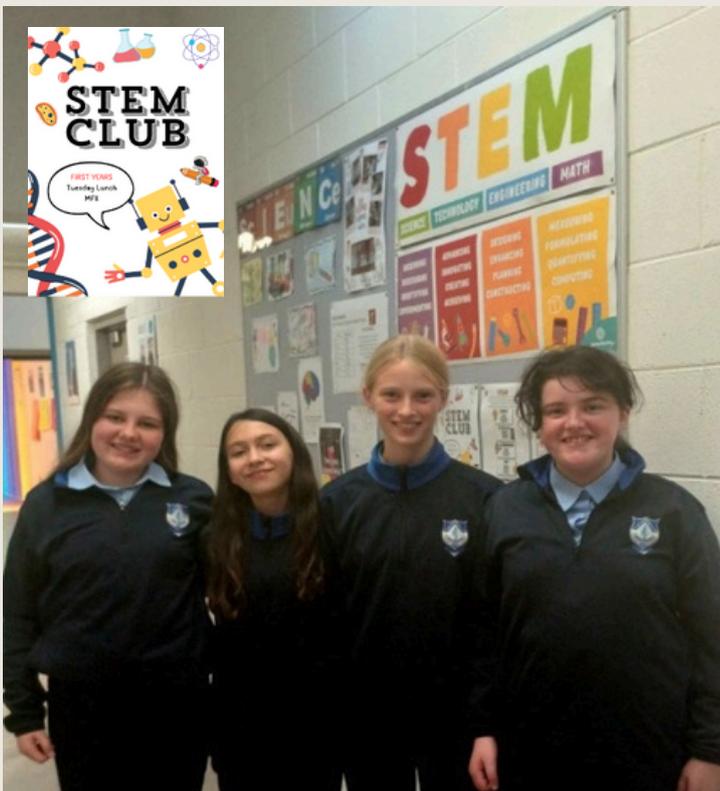




**TY Students hanging up the NO<sub>2</sub> tubes around the school grounds**

## **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) in Rice College Westport**

Our TY STEM class are participating in a citizen science project with @globe\_ireland to investigate the air quality around Ireland! GLOBE Air Quality Campaign, is a citizen science project that educates students about traffic-related air pollution by measuring nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations around schools. Students install these tubes to collect data on NO<sub>2</sub>, a pollutant from vehicle emissions, which is then sent to a lab for analysis. This initiative helps students develop skills in data collection and environmental awareness while contributing to larger studies.



Our 1st-year Lunchtime STEM Club is thriving, and the students are having a blast while diving into innovative projects. They're learning about STEM in hands-on ways, from building LEGO robots to coding them for the first time. One student is developing an app to help with the early detection of skin cancer, while others are working on creative solutions like an anti-chewing gum device. The energy and ideas in the club are truly inspiring, and we can't wait to see what they come up with next!



Our Student Council is made up of representatives from each year group in our school. It provides a valuable opportunity for students to develop their leadership skills and take an active role in school life. Student voice is an important part of our school culture.

Council members listen to the opinions, ideas, and concerns of their peers and work closely with staff and management to make positive changes. Together, they strive to create an inclusive, supportive, and inspiring school environment for all students!

#studentvoice



**Team Bonding & Student Council Training with the Irish Second Level Student Union**

## **Mayo Comhairle na nÓg Youth Conference Oct 2025**

Comhairle na nÓg enables young people to have a voice on the services, policies and issues which affect them in their local area. Members of our student council recently attended a conference where they worked with students from other local schools on topics that concern teenagers in Mayo.



**Members of Rice College Student Council with Ms Sharon Costello (Student Council Liaison Officer)**

## Ardscoil na Mara Tramore

### **Nuturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based Values.**

Before the business of our first term got underway we paused to reflect as the school year began. We celebrated our Opening of Year Mass where the whole school community came together in the Church of the Holy Cross Tramore to pray, take part in ritual and to ask God to bless us as we start out on a new school year. The theme of our celebration was New Year New Beginnings. We were privileged to be able to venerate a relic of the recently canonised St Carlos Acutis, the new Millennial saint. Our students had been learning about him in their RE classes earlier that week and watched some clips of his canonisation in Rome by Pope Leo XIV.



### **Inspiring transformational Leadership.**

Our Senior Student Leadership team was announced at the Mass and our prefects were commissioned. They will be great role models for our student body and we wish them well as they begin their work. After allowing the students to show their creative side and their leadership skills in the Prefect Application Process we now have Five Working Groups: Green Guardians, Active Ambassadors, Spirit of Service Leaders, Arts Ambassadors and Cairde Leaders. We are looking forward to seeing the direction of their work this year and it just shows their level of commitment especially during their Leaving Cert Year. They will be assisted in their roles and responsibilities by our Student Council, class presidents and our Edmund Rice Ambassadors.



**Pictured above are our Head boy: Tommy Griffin, Head girl: Aoife Mc Mahon and Deputy head boys: Daniel Andrews and Peter Breen and Deputy Head girls: Chloe Webster and Aine Groves.**

### **Excelling in Teaching and Learning**

A highlight of our half term was Maths week. The week had plenty of fun games and activities happening throughout for staff and students with Daily Year Group Countdown, Maths problems for our staff with email puzzles and Connections, a Maths Trail and Challenge for First Year students. These events offered an engaging, interactive opportunity for students to explore mathematics in a practical context. Puzzles to keep us all guessing were posted on classroom doors and the screens on our corridors.



**Some members of our Maths Department got into the spirit of the week, pictured are: L to R: Aoife Cronin, Emily Campbell, Irene Murray, Esther Ryan and Claire Murphy. We're looking forward to next year already!**

**Creating a Caring school community.**

### **The Water for Life Campaign 2025**

The ERST Water for Life Campaign took place again this year. We are hopeful that peace may come to the Middle East in light of recent developments there. Our Peace and Justice Group have been working very hard to highlight the situation in the Middle East. Our campaign this year focused on the importance of Water and how essential it is for life. We launched our campaign on September 29<sup>th</sup> and ran it for a week. During the week we had intercom announcements, peer teaching and poster making. Our campaign culminated in our Wear Blue Day where we all wore blue and donated to the work of UNICEF. We encouraged other schools across the Network to get involved and take up the challenge of raising awareness and much needed funds to support this great cause.

# WATER FOR LIFE: WEAR BLUE DAY



- This Friday, **October 3rd**, the Peace and Justice Group are hosting a Wear Blue Non Uniform Day.
- This is to raise awareness and much needed funds for the work of UNICEF.
- UNICEF are working to help alleviate the suffering of children especially in the Middle East.
- We are asking everyone to wear **Blue** on Friday and please donate **€2** to support this worthy cause.



ARDSCOIL NA MARA AN EDMUND RICE SCHOOL





### **Annual Focus Ireland Sleep Out.**

A little closer to home we continued our Fundraising by taking part in the Focus Ireland Annual Sleep Out again this year. The Sleep Out has become a very important night and a highlight on our school calendar. All the Peace and Justice Group together with members of staff slept out under the stars to help raise awareness of the growing needs of the homeless across the country. We had two speakers from Focus Ireland to help draw attention to what the night was all about. We had a Q and A with the speakers and some games before bedding down for the night at 10.30pm. A 6am wake up call wasn't long coming and we went home to our own beds glad we had done something to help the work of Focus Ireland.



**Staff members L to R : Noah Fanning, Michelle Barry, Kealan Mc Laughlin, Teresa Wright, Esther Ryan, Treasa Power and Rachel Phelan who all took part on the night.**

## Promoting Partnership.

We have had visitors from Edmund Rice Schools Network across the globe recently. This included Edmund Rice teachers and Leaders from the US and Australia. Both groups drew inspiration from the Birthplace of Blessed Edmund Rice and followed closely in his footsteps from Callan to Waterford and Outreach Projects in Belfast organised by Cormac Mc Art of the Westcourt Centre. While with us they experienced all our school has to offer and after a nice lunch with the RE Department were taken on a tour of our school campus by our Edmund Rice Ambassadors and Prefects. During the tour they saw at first hand our school in action, with visits to our Outdoor Garden and Forest Classrooms. There were treated to a cultural experience of Irish music and dancing and a presentation on the various learning activities and campaigns that our students are involved in. We were very happy to host Br Peadar Glesson CFC who joined us for lunch during one of the visits. Br Peadar shared his many years of experience in Ricean Education and pastoral ministry with us and we were honoured to have him. Both groups returned to their schools with renewed vigour to continue the mission and vision of Edmund Rice and keep his spirit alive in our schools. The visits highlighted our growing partnership with an expanding global network of educators and a shared commitment to the Values espoused in our Charter. Pictured below are Edmund Rice School Leaders form St Laurence High School in Chicago, Kirsty Kane and Laura Storino and friends with our principal Mr. Pdraig Cawley and Deputy Principal Mrs. Aoife Denton at the birthplace in Callan of Blessed Edmund. The St Laurence Group will be returning in the Spring with some of their students and we look forward to welcoming them.





## Spanish Exchange 2025

Some of our students went to Valladolid in Spain. Along with their teachers Mr Kelleher and Ms Keane they had a wonderful time. The staff and families of students of Colegio Ntra. Sra. De la Consolación (Agustinas misioneras) welcomed our students with open arms. While there they were treated to day trips to places like Leon, Segovia, Comillas and Santander. A fantastic cultural and immersive experience.



# CBC Cork

## WELLBEING WEEK 2025

Wellbeing Week 2025 in CBC Cork took place from October 13th to 17th with the tag line 'Responsible Me, Resilient Us.' Over the course of the week a series of activities were organised for each year group from first year to sixth year.

Every class in the school got to partake in a 'Wellbeing Walk' and 'Relax and Read'. The walks took place during either Mentor or Religion classes. The 'Relax and Read' periods took place during English class when both students and teachers had a chance to read a novel of their choice, purely for pleasure and a break from normal studies.

Each year group also enjoyed a double period of games on the college's new 4G astroturf pitch. The students played soccer, tag rugby, rounders, flag American football amongst other sports. The sixth years had a 'Wellbeing Breakfast' in the hall which gave them a chance to chat and play board games together



We were also lucky to have some great guests with us over the week. Past pupil and Cork Senior Hurling Captain Rob Downey met the first years with the National Hurling League and Munster Senior Hurling Cups. Another past pupil, Stephen Archer spoke with the 2nd and 3rd years about the ups and downs of his professional rugby career with Munster and Ireland. Lisa Sheehan gave an 'Alcohol and Drug Awareness Workshop' with the senior years.

There were also activities for staff including the return of the 'Great CBC Bake Off' which went down a treat! This was in spite of some controversial judging! The installation of a dart board in the staff room also added to the week.

Overall it proved to be an enjoyable week for all in the school community with the hope being that the activities provided some lasting learning and food for thought.



## **CBC Zambia Immersion Project**

2025 marks the start of a fresh Zambia Immersion Project for Christian Brothers College, Cork. Under the auspices of SERVE, an Irish development and volunteering organisation based in Cork, fourteen students and three teachers are set to travel to Mazabuka, Zambia for two weeks of volunteer work and community immersion.

This current trip marks the third time that CBC students and teachers will make the journey to Mazabuka under the SERVE umbrella. In both of the previous excursions students engaged in projects that aim to benefit the local community, such as building chicken coups, maintaining and upgrading school buildings, and working on banana plantations. Students also had the opportunity to teach in one of the local schools, and organised several soccer matches and sports days with school children in Mazabuka. We expect that CBC will have a similar positive impact during the upcoming trip in June 2026.

The selection of students for this year's Immersion Project was carried out via an application and interview process, with twenty-four students applying for ten places initially. Candidates displayed a range of exceptional attributes, ranging from being leaders within a team to volunteering for local organisations. After three hours of deliberating on such high quality candidates, teachers felt that the number of travelling students would need to be raised to fourteen.

Teachers felt that these fourteen would represent CBC's Christian ethos in Mazabuka, and upon their return would share their experiences with the wider CBC community.

The 2025-26 CBC Zambia Immersion Project is currently in the preparatory stage of fundraising with students, parents and other members of the school community. They are deciding which fundraising activities are achievable and would increase awareness about the struggles and needs of the people of Mazabuka, Zambia.

## **Lord Mayor's Day 2025**

We were delighted to welcome the Lord Mayor, Councillor Fergal Dennehy and Lady Mayoress, Ms. Karen Brennan to CBC this morning. The Lord Mayor addressed a whole school assembly of the Preparatory and Secondary School. The College is proud to be part of this longstanding tradition.



## First Year Day of Welcome 2025

We were delighted to welcome our new First Year students and their families to CBC on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> August. A Mass was celebrated in the CBC by Fr. John O Donovan. Teachers and student leaders – the Meitheal and Misneach Teams – led the first years on guided tours of the building and grounds. The boys were wished well on their new school journey by principal David Lordon and his teaching staff.





### **Delegation of Principals from the Netherlands.**

Recently we had the pleasure of welcoming a delegation of principals from The Netherlands to our school. Their visit provided a fantastic opportunity for the sharing of expertise and ideas around current best practice in learning and teaching, as well as leadership and management. Through engaging discussions and collaborative sessions, we explored innovative approaches to education, reflecting on how different systems can inspire and enhance our own practices. The exchange was both insightful and enriching, reinforcing the importance of international collaboration in shaping the future of education.

# Woodbrook College Bray

## Students Shine During Woodbrook College's Active Wellbeing Week

Active Wellbeing Week took place in Woodbrook College from 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> October. Active Wellbeing Week is a fundamental focus in our school. The aim is to promote positive mental health, resilience, and healthy lifestyles through education, physical activity, and positive relationships in an inclusive and respectful school climate which values diversity and belonging.



A series of events for the week was organised by Ms. Erika Walker and our student Smile Club Ambassadors. Smile Club Ambassadors are students in the school's Smile Club who share ideas and plan activities to make school life more enjoyable from both a social and emotional perspective. Their work is integral to maintaining our school's Amber Flag and RICH culture.



### RESOURCES & SUPPORT

- **Webwise.ie** – great tips on staying safe online
- **Childline.ie** – chat or call for free if you're worried or upset! Freephone 1800 66 66 66
- **Jigsaw.ie** – youth mental health support
- **SpunOut.ie** – wellbeing, body image, relationships, and more! You can also text SPUNOUT to 50808 for free 24/7 mental health support.
- **Garda.ie** – report serious online harassment or threats
- **Text HELLO to 50808** (free on all networks) 24/7
- **Samaritans Ireland** Freephone: 116 123
- **Teenline** Freephone: 1800 833 634 [www.teenline.ie](http://www.teenline.ie)
- **Tackle Bullying** – A national website to counter bullying and cyberbullying.





**CYBERSAFE KIDS**

## CyberBreak

A 24-hour digital detox

FROM 5pm Fri. 17th October  
UNTIL 5pm Sat. 18th October 2025



### 24-HOUR CHALLENGE

- Go 24 hours without checking likes on your posts
- Unfollow 3 accounts that don't bring you joy
- Share something kind

You have the power to make social media better for yourself and others




THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME TODAY

Wellbeing Week events included a step count challenge, a whole school Just Dance competition, a lunchtime mental health talk, a 'no homework' day, a smoothie station, badminton for all, peer appreciation cards, after school yoga and pilates, and the annual school-wide charity Fun Run in Shanganagh Park which is one of the highlights of the school year. Healthy Ireland supported the week by delivering excellent prizes to the school such as reusable water bottles and jerseys which the students were delighted to receive.

This is a fantastic initiative and really emphasises the importance of mental and physical wellbeing in our school community.



# Ardcoil Rís Limerick

## Team-Building

First year students participated in team-bonding activities, building confidence and collaboration, reflecting Respect and Inclusive Community as they supported one another.



Third years and Fifth years each enjoyed a fun day at Emerald Park, strengthening friendships and shared experiences, showing Inclusive Community and Respect in action.





TY students challenged themselves through the 4 Peaks and wild camping, showing resilience, teamwork, and determination — a true example of Solidarity and Courage.



Our athletes and teams in the school displayed teamwork, sportsmanship, and dedication, reflecting Respect and Integrity, key values of the Edmund Rice Charter both on and off the pitch.



From classroom moments to extracurricular activities, students' artwork captured life at school, showing a caring community by valuing everyone's contributions, living the Edmund Rice Charter.

**ARDSCOIL RIS TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS PRESENT..**

**BLUE SUEDE SHOES!**



**TUESDAY 21ST, WEDNESDAY 22ND, THURSDAY 23RD,  
OCTOBER 2025  
8:00 PM - 10:30 PM  
MILLENIUM THEATRE TUS**



**BUY TICKETS HERE!**

TY students have been preparing Blue Suede Shoes over the past weeks, developing creativity and teamwork, and reflecting Respect and Courage as they support one another towards the big performance.

## Portlaoise CBS

### **AIMS Award Success for St. Mary's CBS Production of Grease**

The chairman of AIMS, Gerry Sweeney, proudly visited St. Mary's CBS to present the school with their AIMS Award for their outstanding 2025 production of Grease.

The school received the award for Best Cohesive Principal Team, a recognition of the talent, teamwork, and dedication shown throughout the production. Pictured here are the cast members, which included students from both St. Mary's CBS and Scoil Chríost Rí . Their hard work and collaboration brought the much-loved musical to life on stage, creating a memorable and award-winning performance that the whole school community are celebrating.



### **Green School Committee Honoured by Laois County Council**

Recently, members of the Green School Committee in St. Mary's CBS were presented with a plaque by Laois County Council.

The committee participated in Year 1 of the Laois Cluster Programme, which is part of the Portlaoise Low Carbon Town initiative, and they are looking forward to working with the council again this year.

The aim of the project is to reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality and safety on the way to school. Well done all!



### **Portlaoise Crowned Laois U-15 Football Champions**

A huge congratulations to our St. Mary's CBS students who were part of the Portlaoise U-15 team crowned Midlands Park Hotel Laois U-15 Football Champions after a thrilling 2-10 to 1-12 victory over Mountmellick Parish Gaels in O'Moore Park. It was a special victory for our St. Mary's CBS students as the entire panel was made up of our pupils.

In a nail-biting finish, Ethan O'Connor sealed the win with a decisive late point to secure the title for Portlaoise — an incredible moment for this talented group of players. A brilliant achievement for all involved, proudly representing both Portlaoise GAA and Portlaoise CBS.





## **Outstanding Results for St. Mary's CBS Students**

St. Mary's CBS is immensely proud of our students who achieved exceptional results in both the Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle examinations this year.

Our Leaving Certificate students have once again demonstrated remarkable dedication, resilience, and academic excellence, with many progressing to third-level courses across a wide range of disciplines. Their results are a reflection of years of hard work and commitment, supported by their teachers and families.

We also extend huge congratulations to our Junior Cycle students who received their results recently. Their achievements mark an important milestone in their educational journey, and the school community is very proud of the effort, positivity, and progress shown by all.

Well done to each and every student on their well-earned success.



# Coláiste Éamann Rís Cork

## 6th Year Students Enjoy Overnight Trip to the Gaeltacht in Rinn

A group of 6th Year students recently enjoyed an unforgettable overnight trip to the Gaeltacht in Rinn, Co. Waterford, where they immersed themselves in Irish language and culture while having plenty of fun along the way.

During their stay, students attended Irish classes, took part in a lively quiz as Gaeilge, and enjoyed a wide range of sports, including handball and other team games. One of the highlights of the trip was the energetic céilí, where everyone joined in for traditional Irish dancing and plenty of laughter.



The group also took a scenic walk along the Cunnigar, where they soaked in the breathtaking coastal views and collected rocks to paint later as mementos of their time in Rinn.

The trip was a wonderful opportunity for students to strengthen their Irish, connect with their friends and teachers, and experience the joy of Irish culture in a relaxed and enjoyable setting. It was a memorable experience that truly brought the spirit of the Gaeltacht to life!





### **LGFA Team Training Tops!**

We are delighted to unveil our new LGFA team training tops, purchased through the Re-Turn Bottle Recycling Scheme. At the beginning of the year, we decided on this fundraising idea that would be helpful to the environment and involve all members of the school community. This fantastic initiative highlights our values of community spirit, sustainability, recycling, and school pride in being part of the Edmund Rice community. A huge thank you to all students and staff who supported the scheme — every recycled bottle made a difference!

Special appreciation goes to our caretakers, Pat and John, who went the extra mile by making sure bottles were placed in the correct bins and assisting with returns to the deposit machines.

The tops arrived just in time for the new season so best of luck to our LGFA team as they proudly wear their new colours — representing not just our school but also showing our commitment to a greener future. This year we have decided to use the monies generated to purchase any necessary equipment for our teams but we also hope to be in a position to promote the ethos of Edmund Rice by making a donation to a suitable charity at the end of the current school year.



## Comhairle na nÓg

Six students from Coláiste Éamann Rís attended the Comhairle na nÓg event at City Hall today, where they joined young people from schools across the city to discuss issues that matter to them and their communities.

Comhairle na nÓg, which means "Youth Council", is a national initiative that gives young people a voice in shaping local policies and decisions. It provides a platform for students to share their opinions on topics such as mental health, climate action, inclusion, and youth services, ensuring that their perspectives are heard by local authorities and community leaders.

Our students really enjoyed the experience and valued the opportunity to collaborate with their peers from other schools. They described the day as inspiring, engaging, and empowering, and were proud to represent Coláiste Éamann Rís in such a positive and meaningful way.

The school is very proud of their participation and looks forward to seeing how their ideas can help influence change for the better in the wider community.





## **International Students First Ever Hurling Match**

The International Students' first-ever hurling match was an unforgettable experience, taking place on Sunday, October 19th, at the iconic Páirc Uí Chaoimh during the County Final between Sarsfields and Midleton. The excitement in the stadium was electric, with crowds filling the stands and the atmosphere charged with passion for the game. For many of the international players, it was their first time witnessing — and participating in — Ireland's national sport up close. The skill, speed, and spirit on display left a lasting impression, making it a truly special

## **First Year Parent Coffee Morning**

The first-year parent coffee morning was a well-attended and warmly received event, providing a relaxed and friendly atmosphere for parents to connect with one another and meet key school staff. It offered a valuable opportunity to get to know teachers, SNAs, and year heads in an informal setting, helping to build positive relationships and open lines of communication early in the school year. Conversations flowed easily over tea and coffee, and the supportive environment helped parents feel welcomed and more connected to the school community.





## Parent Course

Coláiste Éamann Rís is delighted to offer a Parent Course designed to create a welcoming space where parents can connect, share ideas, and support one another in a relaxed environment.

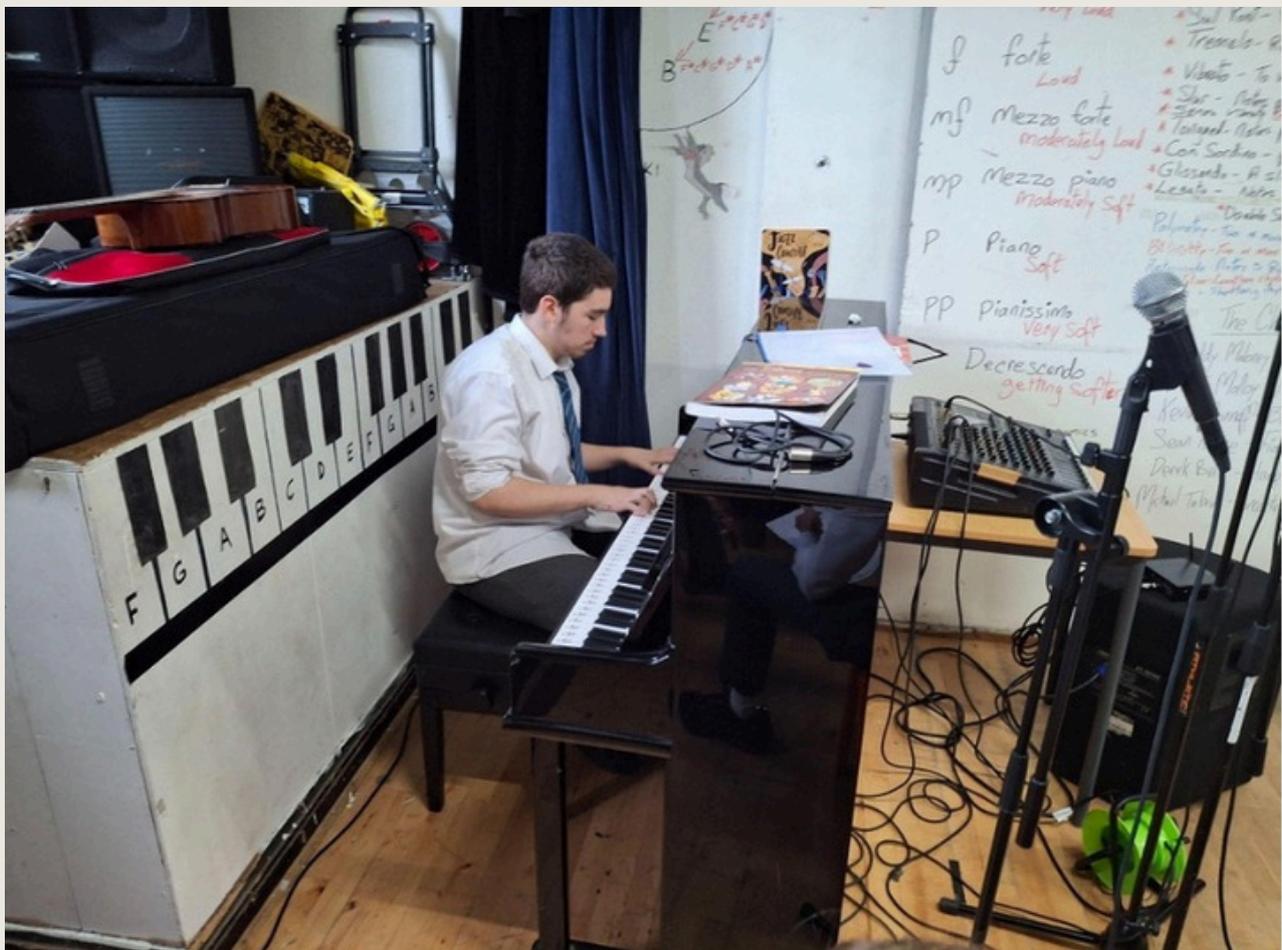
The course provides an opportunity to explore topics relevant to parenting, education, and wellbeing, while also building a sense of community among families.

Whether you're looking to learn something new or simply meet other parents, this course offers a valuable chance to engage, reflect, and grow together.

## Songwriting Workshop with Luan Parle – Tuesday, 14th October 2025

On Tuesday, 14th October 2025, we held a Songwriting Workshop with acclaimed Irish artist Luan Parle. The session was attended by 17 students — 11 Fifth Year students and 6 Transition Year students. Among them were 4 students from Spain, 1 from Germany, and 4 from Italy. The workshop was facilitated by music teachers Mr. Antóin Corbett and Ms. Julie Buckley.

Luan began by sharing her musical background and professional experience, discussing topics such as record contracts, the Irish Music Rights Organisation (IMRO), copyright, royalties, and various career pathways for aspiring musicians.



She then explained the fundamentals of song structure, outlining the key sections — introduction, verse, pre-chorus, chorus, bridge, and even the option of adding an instrumental section. Luan emphasised the importance of starting with a theme when brainstorming lyrics.

Next, students were invited to take up their instruments — including ukuleles, guitars, bass, piano, drums, xylophone, and boomwhackers. Together, they explored familiar chords and experimented with progressions, eventually settling on A–C–G–F for the verse. Once the chord progression was set, Luan encouraged the students to hum or “lilt” melodies over the chords until they discovered one that worked.



After establishing the first melody, the group moved on to develop a second section. Under Luan's guidance, Steve (on piano) looped a new set of chords — Bmin–A–D–G — while students worked out another melody. The chorus then evolved naturally from the chords A–D–G–A.

Following a short break, Luan divided the students into smaller groups to write lyrics for the different song sections. They were encouraged to create original content, while also having the option to reference ideas from the "lyric wall" they had been working on earlier.

One group, which included six of our international Transition Year students, composed a macaronic bridge featuring both Spanish and English lyrics. The combination of languages, melodies, and accents gave the song a wonderful richness and authenticity.

With microphones set up and the bass guitar plugged in, the group recorded their finished song — and it turned out remarkably well. The students were genuinely thrilled with what they had created together.

The workshop was inclusive, collaborative, and creatively enriching, promoting not only musical skills but also literacy, memory, and teamwork.



## TY Retreat to Gougane Barra

Our Transition Year students recently enjoyed a reflective and refreshing retreat to the beautiful Gougane Barra. The day began with a peaceful meditation session in the chapel, where students took time to pause, reflect, and write down some of their worries. These were later blessed, symbolising a sense of release and new beginnings. Afterward, students embraced the stunning surroundings with a scenic hike through the hills and forests of Gougane Barra, taking in the breathtaking views and enjoying time together in nature. It was a day of calm, connection, and renewal for all who attended.



## World Mental Health Day

To celebrate World Mental Health Day on October 10th, the entire school community came together in a wonderful display of positivity and support. The Amber Flag Team organised a school-wide event to promote awareness around mental health and wellbeing. As part of the celebrations, they distributed delicious cookies to all students, while members of the Meitheal Team treated the First Years to comforting cups of hot chocolate topped with marshmallows.

In the spirit of kindness and community, students made small donations for the tasty treats, with all proceeds going directly to Pieta House, a charity that provides vital support for mental health and suicide prevention. The event was a heart-warming success, highlighting the importance of looking out for one another and fostering a culture of care and connection within our school.







# Edmund Rice Secondary School Carrick on Suir

## Study Skills Workshop

All of our students took part in a Study Skills workshop. During the workshop our students identified different techniques to ensure effective study.



## Junior Cycle Results

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October students received their Junior Cycle results. Our students were very pleased with what they achieved.



## School Mass Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October

A whole school Mass was held in St. Nicholas' Church to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. Students worked hard, with their teachers, preparing the readings and the prayers as well as organising the gifts for the ceremony. Others were involved in the choir and playing musical instruments.



## First Year Hurling

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Years got to the final of 1<sup>st</sup> Year Tipperary Hurling Blitz. After a tremendous battle they were defeated but went on to win the shield.



## Eddie Gough Bursary

Past 6<sup>th</sup> Year students were awarded with a thousand-euro bursary for their further education. These students showed academic and sporting excellence. The students were awarded the bursary by Eddie Gough.



# Charleville CBS

## First Year

### Creating a Caring Community

We were delighted to welcome our new first year class in August and rolled out the red carpet for them! They spent their first day learning the ropes and getting to know their way around the school under the watchful guidance of their Year Head, Mr. Corcoran!





## First Year Callan Trip Nurturing Faith

This term, first year students were delighted to go on the annual pilgrimage to Callan to visit the birthplace of the Blessed Edmund Rice who is the founder of the Edmund Rice Trust. They had a very informative tour and made lots of memories on the day!





## Pope John Paul II Awards Nurturing Faith

Huge congratulations to 5th year student Risteard O'Sullivan on receiving the Pope John Paul II Award for his contributions to both the parish and the Holy Family School during Transition Year. A fantastic achievement. Well done Risteard!



# High School Clonmel

## Maths Week

Lots happening here for Maths Week! A big well done to first year Brian Roche who taught some computer programming with [switch.mit.edu](http://switch.mit.edu) to his classmates and to Adrian Thomas Mathew and Michal Kolodziejczak who won the Countdown Challenges.



Plenty of games and puzzles in the classrooms and yards for Maths Week

# Dungarvan CBS

## Opening Year Prayer Service in St. Mary's Parish Church

We had a wonderful start to the academic year with our opening prayer service at St. Mary's Parish Church on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> September. Students, staff, and parents came together for a beautiful spiritual moment, led by Fr. John and assisted by Fr. Willy. It was a special opportunity for our Edmund Rice community to connect. Fr. Willy's homily was incredibly inspiring, as he shared stories about Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, who will soon be canonized as saints by Pope Leo XIX. Our Principal, Ms. Guerin, also addressed the community, wishing everyone a successful year and emphasizing the importance of excellence in teaching and learning. It was a perfect way to begin the journey ahead!

Symbols were brought to the altar by our 1<sup>st</sup> Year students: Frankie Keneally, Harry Brown, Jack O'Mahony, Oisín Keohan and Fionn Curran, whilst being narrated by Dara Cleary (2nd year).

Prayers of the faithful read by Darragh Rice, Ollie Cunningham, Nathan Butler, Ronan Gleeson and Mike Tykhonenko (2nd year).

Readings by Alfie Wise and Daniel Mirza (5<sup>th</sup> Year).

Music by Rory Mulcahy, Tim Scanlan and Rian Bulfin as well as teachers Ms. Boland and Mr. McCarthy.





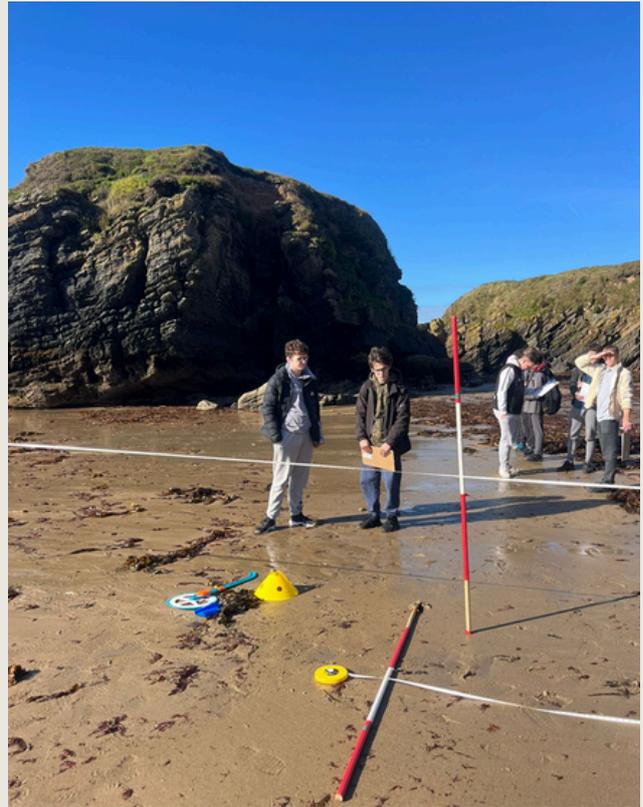
## 6<sup>th</sup> Year Geography Field Trip

Our Leaving Certificate Geography students recently swapped the classroom for the stunning coastal scenery of Goat's Island Beach, Ardmore, to undertake a vital part of their academic year.

Under the guidance of Ms. Keane, Mr. S. McGrath, and Ms. Roche, the 6<sup>th</sup> Years completed their mandatory coastal investigation fieldwork. This intensive, practical exercise is not just a field trip; the quality of the work gathered will contribute a significant 20% to their overall Leaving Certificate grade.

The students focused on collecting critical geographical data, studying features like coastal erosion, deposition, and management strategies—putting their classroom theory into real-world practice on one of County Waterford's most beautiful and geologically rich beaches.

The fantastic weather was certainly a bonus, adding to what was a highly productive and memorable day for all. This kind of hands-on learning is invaluable, providing our students with the skills and deep understanding necessary for success in their exams and beyond.



## Sixth Year Students Honoured for Service on Lourdes Pilgrimage

Five of our Sixth Year students—Rian Keohan, Fionnán Drohan, John Delaney, Seánie Cummins, and Colin Ryan—were recently recognized for their dedicated service during the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes this past June.

The students were presented with certificates by Diocesan Advisor Olivia Elliott to acknowledge their valuable contribution. Their selfless volunteering is an exceptional example of personal development and community engagement, reflecting the core ethos of our school. This spirit of service and giving back aligns perfectly with the values of Edmund Rice.

We are incredibly proud of these young men. Their commitment and compassion are a credit to themselves and the school community.



# Coláiste Íosagáin

## Meán Fómhair – Deireadh Fómhair 2025

Bhí téarma gnóthach, tairbheach agus siamsúil againn le tús a chur leis an mbliain acadúil agus muid ag cur fáilte roimh phríomhoide agus roimh bhaill foirne nua i gColáiste Íosagáin. Is cinnte go raibh athnuachan agus leanúnachas mar théamaí ar scoil agus ár gcultúr Gaelach agus ár n-oidhreacht Chríostaíoch mar chroílár na n-imeachtaí a thit amach ó dheireadh mhí Lúnasa.

Chuir pobal Choláiste Íosagáin fáilte mhór roimh phríomhoide nua i mí Lúnasa, Treasa Ní Fhearraigh. Is as Gaoth Dobhair do Threasa agus tá traidisiúin agus oidhreacht na tíre agus na Gaeltachta le feiceáil ina hábhair múinteoireachta: An Ghaeilge agus an Stair. Ní haon iontas é go bhfuil múnú na n-óg go smior inti agus múinteoireacht mar ghnás sa chlann 's aici le fada an lá. Tá cuid mhaith dá saol gairmiúil caite aici ag obair ar thaobh eile na cathrach, i gColáiste Mhuire, agus cé go bhfuil turas beagáinín níos faide ó dheas ann ó Ghaoth Dobhair go dtí Baile an Bhóthair, táimid cinnte go mothóidh sí ar a suaimhneas sa Ghaeltacht álainn 's againne i gColáiste Íosagáin. Tá fáilte chroíúil, Ghaelach roimh Iníon Uí Fhearraigh.



## Cúrsaí Spioradálta

Le tús spráúil, spioradálta, suaimhneach a chur leis an mbliain, d'fhreastail daltaí Bhliain 6 agus Bhliain 5 ar chúrsaí spioradálta i nGleann Dá Loch, Cill Mhantáin. Is ord De la Salle ó Bhaile Formaid a eagraíonn an cúrsa álainn bliantúil seo ina ndéanann na daltaí guí, machnamh agus siúlóid amuigh faoin aer. D'fhreastail daltaí Bhliain 6 ar an gcúrsa in éineacht le scoláirí Choláiste Eoin agus mar sin, bhí cuid mhaith craic agus spraoi ann agus an aimsir ag fanacht tirim dóibh ar an lá.

D'fhreastail daltaí Bhliain 3 agus Bhliain 4 ar chúrsaí spioradálta freisin agus rinneadh guí, machnamh agus smaointeoireacht domhain ar na cúrsaí sin chomh maith



Daltaí Bhliain 6 ó Choláiste Íosagáin agus Eoin i nGleann Dá Loch



## Turas chun na Gaeltachta le Bliain 2

Bhain daltaí Bhliain 2 taitneamh as tréimhse speisialta i nGaeltacht Chonamara, áit ar chuir siad tús spraiúil agus cairdiúil lena ndara bliain i gColáiste Íosagáin. Chuaigh an bhliain ar fad go dtí Ros a' Mhíl le freastal ar Choláiste Chamuis agus ghlac siad páirt i réimse leathan imeachtaí. Rinne siad ranganna ióga, ceardlann drumadóireachta, ghlac siad páirt i gcéilí istoíche agus rinne siad ceardlann amhránaíochta maraon le turais go dtí páirceanna eachtraíochta, Wildlands agus Elemental. Bhí fíoreispéireas Gaeltachta acu agus iad ag fanacht le mná tí timpeall an cheantair. Le deireadh a chur leis an gceithre lá, thug siad cuairt ar Theach an Phiarsaigh, Ros Muc.



## Cúrsaí Teanga Gairmeacha le Gearmáinis

D'fhreastail ranganna Gearmáinise Bhliain 6 ar aonach gairmeacha, an "Karriere Roadshow", i nDeutsche Schule St. Killian, eagraithe ag an Goethe-Institut. Chuala na daltaí cainteanna ó ionadaithe na Ranna Gearmáinise i UCD agus TCD agus labhair siad le hoibrithe Gearmánacha, chomh maith le hionadaí ón gComhlachas Tráchtála Gearmánach-Éireannach agus ó ambasáid na Gearmáine. Thug na daltaí cuairt ar na seastáin ar fad agus chuir siad isteach ar chomórtais éagsúla le linn an lae. Maidin spráúil tairbheach a bhí ann.



## Malartú le cuairteoirí Gearmánacha leis an Idirbhliain

Mar chuid den togra Erasmus+, tá traidisiún ag daltaí Idirbhliana na scoile anois malartú á dhéanamh le grúpa scoláirí ón nGearmáin (seo an tríú bliain dúinn an malartú seo a dhéanamh). Bhain an scoil creidiúnú Erasmus+ amach ag tús na bliana seo agus mar sin, bhí deis ag grúpa eile daltaí ó Bhliain 4 páirt a ghlacadh sa scéim iontach seo, maoinithe ag an Aontas Eorpach.

Bhí deis ag deichniúr daltaí Choláiste Íosagáin dul go dtí an Ghearmáin i mí Mheán Fómhair, in éineacht le hIníon Uí Raghallaigh. D'fhreastail na daltaí ar ranganna sa scoil Mädchengymnasium Jülich (MGJ - meánscoil chailíní in Jülich in Iarthar na Gearmáine) agus fuair siad taithí ar an saol scoile sa Ghearmáin. Rinne siad cúrsa ETIM (STEM), ag codú, ag fáil taithí ar phriontáil 3T agus ag obair ar na céimeanna le córas uisciúcháin dhigitigh a thógáil. Mar aon leis seo, thug siad cuairt ar Aachen agus chonaic siad an ardeaglais mhór ann ina raibh suíochán Charlemagne. Mar bhuaicphointe, d'fhreastail na daltaí ar an bhféile eorpach (Europafest) san MGJ agus "Éire" mar théama an fhéile i mbliana. Ba ambasadóirí iontacha iad agus rinne siad taispeántas amhránaíochta agus rince os comhair an phobail scoile sa Ghearmáin.

Tháinig na cuairteoirí Gearmánacha go hÉirinn freisin agus cuireadh fáilte mhór rompu níos déanaí sa mhí. Rinne siad ceardlanna éagsúla in éineacht le cailíní Choláiste Íosagáin agus cuid mhaith de na ranganna bunaithe ar fholláine agus ar fhoghlaim faoin gcultúr Éireannach agus ár dtimpeallacht. Rinne siad ióga, ceardlann ar fhéinchúram, agus thug siad cuairt ar an loisceoir dramhaíola "Dublin Waste to Energy" agus an caifé 3fe sa mhonarcha sin.





### Lá na dTeangacha Eorpacha

Chuaigh daltaí Bhliain 4 amach ar Lá na dTeangacha Eorpacha (26 Mheán Fómhair) go dtí bunscoileanna áitiúla leis an gcultúr Eorpach a cheiliúradh. Mhúin ár ndaltaí frásaí agus focail Gearmáinise agus iad ag obair mar mhúinteoirí teanga ar an lá i mbunscoileanna áitiúla. Spreag siad suim i measc na ndaltaí bunscoile agus threisigh siad na nascanna leis na scoláirí a bheidh ag freastal ar Choláiste Íosagáin amach anseo. Bhí an-obair déanta acu ar an lá.

### Agóid – CEARTA

Ghlac pobal Choláiste Íosagáin páirt san agóid náisiúnta ar son cearta teanga ar 20 Mheán Fómhair i lár na Cathrach i mBaile Átha Cliath. Léirigh daltaí Íosagáin a ndílseacht don teanga agus iad i lár an aonaigh ag an léirsiú is mó ar son na Gaeilge le blianta fada anuas. Agóid spreagúil, bríomhar, dóchasach a bhí ann i measc na nGael.





## Seachtain na Meabhairshláinte

Rinne Coláiste Íosagáin ceiliúradh ar Sheachtain na Meabhairshláinte mí Dheireadh Fómhair. D'eagraigh an coiste folláine neart imeachtaí chun an mheabhairshláinte a chur chun cinn sa scoil. Ina measc, eagraíodh tréimhsí ceardaíochta, comórtas grianghrafadóireachta, biongó, maidin chaifé, tréimhse chluichí agus céilí leis na blianta éagsúla sa scoil. Pléadh an tábhacht a bhaineann le sosanna, aiste bia, codladh agus cairdeas. An-seachtain ar fad a bhí ann.





## Club Leabhar

Cuireadh tús le club leabhar as Gaeilge anuraidh agus tá ag éirí go hiontach leis an gclub agus cuid mhaith léitheoireachta ar siúl arís acu i mbliana. Tá Club Leabhar Gaeilge na Sóisear agus Club Leabhar Gaeilge na Sinsear faoi lánseol ó thús na scoilbhliana arís. Tá an-plé ar bun ar úrscéalta, údair, seánraí léitheoireachta éagsúla agus eile. Ár mbuíochas le COGG a dhéanann urraíocht ar Chlub Leabhar Gaeilge na Sóisear agus ár mbuíochas le hIníon Uí Choileáin a dhéanann bainistiú ar na clubanna seo.



## Lón Eoin agus Íosagáin

Bhailigh scoláirí reatha & iarscoláirí, foireann reatha & iarfhoireann, príomhoidí & iarphríomhoidí le chéile Dé hAoine 17ú Deireadh Fómhair do lón bliantúil Chairde Eoin Íosagáin. Deis atá ann bualadh le mórphobal na scoile agus oidhreacht na scoile a cheiliúradh. Buíochas mór leis an gcoiste a rinne sárobair don ócáid álainn, speisialta seo.

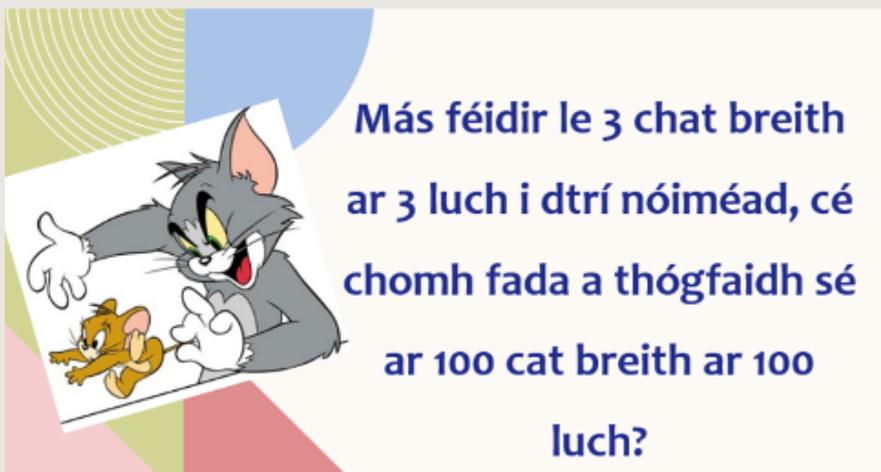
## Cuairt ó Scoil Seandálaíochta na hÉireann

Rinneadh ceiliúradh ar oidhreacht na tíre le déanaí nuair a tháinig Scoil Seandálaíochta na hÉireann go dtí Coláiste Íosagáin. Rinneadh ceardlann seandálaíochta agus bhí deis ag daltaí Bhliain 1 tochtail seandálaíochta a dhéanamh ar láthair seandálaíochta soghluaiste. Taispeánadh iarsmaí staire dóibh agus d'fhoghlaim na daltaí mar gheall ar thábhacht na fianaise fisicí don tuiscint ar an am atá thart.



## Seachtain na Matamaitice

Eagraíodh Seachtain na Matamaitice le déanaí le ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar scileanna matamaitice na ndaltaí agus le huimhearthacht a spreagadh sa scoil. Roinneadh puzail agus ceistanna ag na tionóil ar maidin agus ghlac daltaí agus múinteoirí páirt i gcomórtais beaga éagsúla lena scileanna matamaitice a thástáil agus a léiriú. Buaicphointe na seachtaine ná comórtas bácála ina rinne daltaí léirithe blasta dá bhfoghlaim. Buíochas le hIníon Mhic Phiarais agus na múinteoirí ar fad a bhí páirteach ann.





## Obair Timpeallachta

Tá obair na gcapall ar siúl ag an gCoiste Timpeallachta i láthair na huaire. Tá athruithe agus feachtais ar bun acu le caighdeán na hathchúrsála a fheabhsú agus scagadh níos éifeachtaí anois ar siúl ar bhruscar (buidéil agus cannaí, plaisteach, dramhaíl orgánach agus bruscar eile). Bhí Bliain 1 ag obair go dícheallach, ag plandáil bleibíní sa gháirdín ar cúl na scoile. Fuair gach dalta deis bleibín a chur san ithir agus bhí cluichí spráíúla ar siúl ar an gcúirt chispheile ag an am céanna. Anuas air sin, rinneadh ceiliúradh ar Lá Idirnáisiúnta an Bhia ar 16ú Dheireadh Fómhair. Faoi stiúir Bh. Uí Leathlobhair, rinne rang cócaireachta Bhliain 2 béile álainn, blasta don Choiste Timpeallachta, ag baint úsáide as prátaí agus gairleog úr ón bhfómhar ba dhéanaí agus rinneadh comórtas póstaer don ócáid.



## Bliain 6 ag Higher Options

D'fhreastail lucht Bhliain 6 ar Higher Options mí Mheán Fómhair agus d'éist siad le cainteanna maidir le gairmeacha le Gaeilge agus cúrsaí ETIM / eolaíochta. Bhí an-chuid eolais ann maidir le gairmeacha éagsúla. Go raibh maith ag Iníon Uí Raghallaigh as iad a thabhairt ann. Lá iontach fiúntach a bhí ann agus ábhar machnaimh acu anois agus iad ag smaoineamh ar an dtodhchaí.



## Imeachtaí na hIdirbhliana

Bhí comhoibríocht, cairdeas agus spraoi le feiceáil in an-chuid imeachtaí de chuid na hIdirbhliana ó thús na bliana. Dar ndóigh, is bliain iontach suimiúil í seo agus bíonn go leor ar siúl ag na daltaí ó sheachtain go seachtain, cosúil le cúrsaí garchabhracha, cuairt ar na cúirteanna coiriúla, cúrsa féinchosainte, ceardlanna ióga, ceardlanna ceoil agus eile. Cúpla imeacht a sheasann amach sa chéad cúpla mí ná turas go dtí Teach Chill an Ridire agus cúrsaí rothaíochta i bPáirc an Fhionnuisce. Teach stairiúil is ea Cill an Ridire agus tá páirc eachtraíochta acu ar an láthair freisin. Chuir an bhliain an-aithne ar a chéile agus iad ag eachtraíocht faoin spéir ag tús mhí Mheán Fómhair. Imeacht amháin eile a chuir le hatmaisféar agus le hac láiocht na bliana ná cúrsa rothaíochta i bPáirc an Fhionnuisce. Bhí laethanta spleodracha ag na ranganna ar fad thar cúpla seachtain agus iad i mbun rothaíochta sa pháirc. Dar ndóigh, tá go leor le teacht agus táimid ar fad ag súil go mór leis na himeachtaí sin.



## Ceiliúradh na Samhna

Bhailigh daltaí Bhliain 1 agus 6 le chéile le ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar theacht na Samhna sular tháinig an sos lár téarma. Imeacht de chuid "na Cairde Speisialta" a bhí i gceist leis an ócáid seo. Gearradh puimpcíní agus itheadh cuid mhaith rudaí milse ag an am céanna. Is traidisiún seanbhunaithe anois an ócáid spráúil seo a thógann óige agus sinsearach na scoile le chéile. Buíochas le hIníon Uí Choileáin agus leis na múinteoirí agus cinnirí a chabhraigh ar an lá.



# Coláiste Choilm Swords

## The story of water, an anchor and a monastery

From one journey to Waterford, the city which saw the roots of Edmund Rice Education, came so much inspiration across three events this term in Coláiste Choilm: Our Prefect Formation Experience, The 6th year Pilgrimage to Lourdes and our annual School Mass.

## Inspiring Transformation Leadership

The day before the new year started, saw our prefect team assemble with bags packed, ready for an overnight leadership experience in the place where it all started and where Bl. Edmund lies in rest; Mount Sion, Waterford. The formation experience is based on the 4F's: Fun, Formation, Function and Faith.

The 'Fun' part was our starting point in Dunmore Aqua park, where the prefects enjoyed time in the aqua lough and kayaking.



Then the 'Formation' experience was in our hostel accommodation as we ate together and spent time enjoying the countryside.



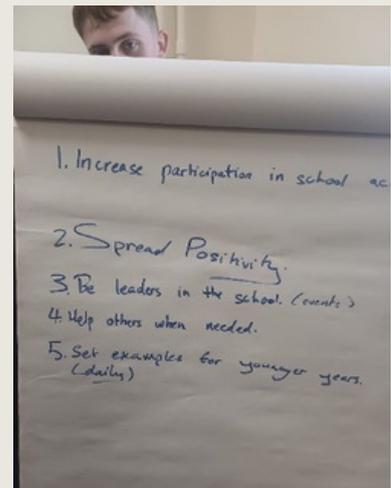
It continued the next day when the prefect team cycled the Greenway before lunch. Then in the afternoon, we arrived at Mount Sion in Waterford, the site of the first main Bl. Edmund Rice school. A quick change into uniform, and we all assembled in the Edmund Rice Chapel.

The staff gave us a tour of the monastery and the room where Bl. Edmund spent his final days. We learned that Bl. Edmund was influenced by St. Ignatius Loyola to the extent that he took the name Ignatius with his final vows, and was actually known as Br. Ignatius Rice by his fellow brothers.

Mr. Foster led the prefect team in prayer around Bl. Edmund Rice.



Finally, the prefects used a room in the monastery to plan their year ahead.



Memories of a lifetime were made before a busy year began.

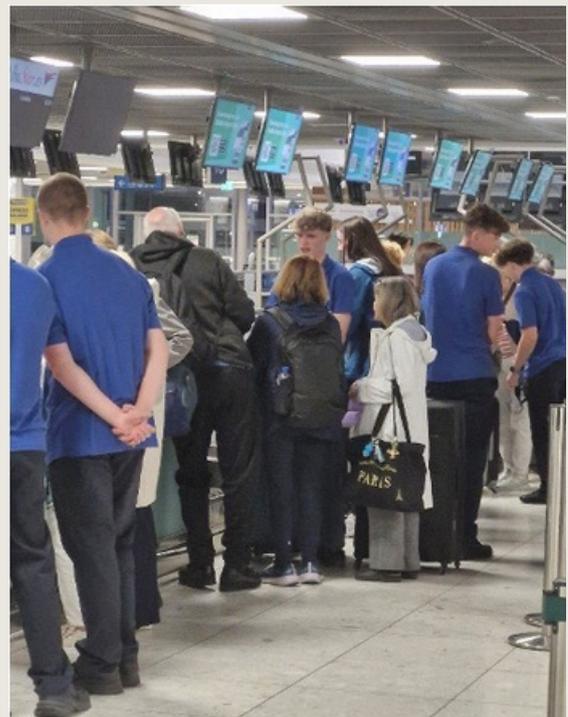


## Nurturing Faith, Christian Spirituality and Gospel based values

On 4th September, we celebrated Coláiste Choilm being 58 years old.

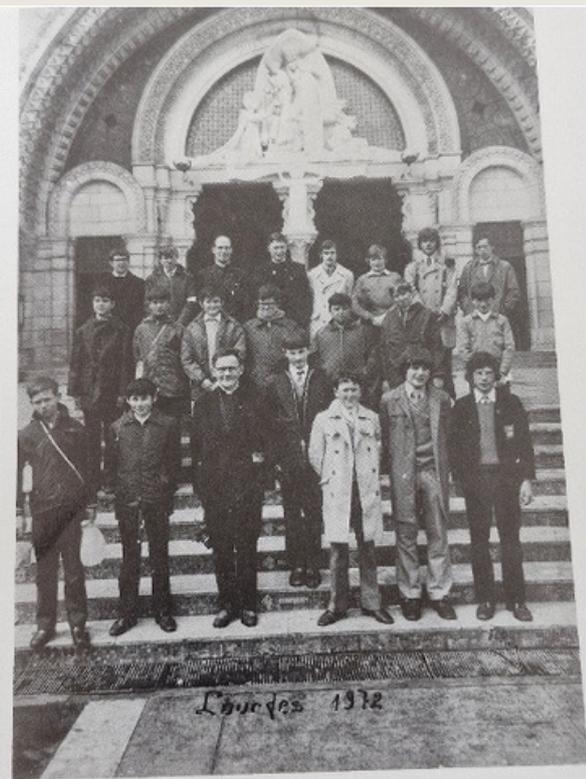
Our celebrations began at 2:30a.m. in Dublin airport when our five Sixth Year students met to begin their pilgrimage to Lourdes with the Dublin Archdiocese.

Dara Donegan, Jason Carey, Daniel Harvey, Toby Thompson and Jason Lacerda began work straight away, helping pilgrims with their luggage.

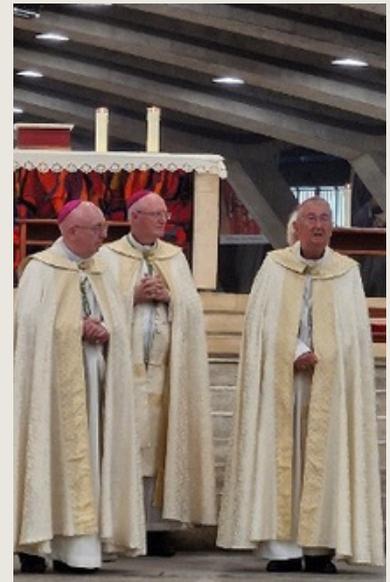


The early start could not take away from the buzz and energy as we made our way to Lourdes and met our past pupils, Dónal Boyd, Charlie Duffy and Alex Cheevers (Class of 2025) who returned as adult volunteers.

A very proud Mr. Foster stood in a photograph on the steps of the basilica, recreating another Coláiste Choilm photograph from 1972 when the late Br. Devine CFC, former Headmaster of Coláiste Choilm led a pilgrimage of Coláiste Choilm students and staff to Lourdes.



In the afternoon the students began their training on the equipment. The next day they assisted pilgrims at the opening mass. Jason Carey and Daniel Harvey had the honour of leading the procession of over 2,500 people to the Basilica of St.Pius X for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Archbishop Dermot Farrell, presiding accompanied by Bishop Donal Roche and Archbishop Emeritus Diarmuid Martin.



That evening, the students teamed up with the students from Loreto Beaufort to present evening prayer. We discovered that the founder of the Loreto order, Mary Ward, was also heavily influenced by St. Ignatius Loyola. A key part of the Loreto crest is the anchor; a symbol of strength and determination, 'which when working is often unseen'. As the pilgrimage drew to a close, the students enjoyed a past and current student meal where they exchanged stories and memories and Coláiste Choilm pins were on show.



On our last night in Lourdes, we received a call from a very special guest who would like to meet us. Br. Christy Carroll, CFC. Br. Christy lives in...Mount Sion!. He was away on the day we visited, but we had our chance to meet in Lourdes. The students enjoyed talking to Br. Christy and he had plenty of willing helpers in the airport as the students made sure he had everything he needed.

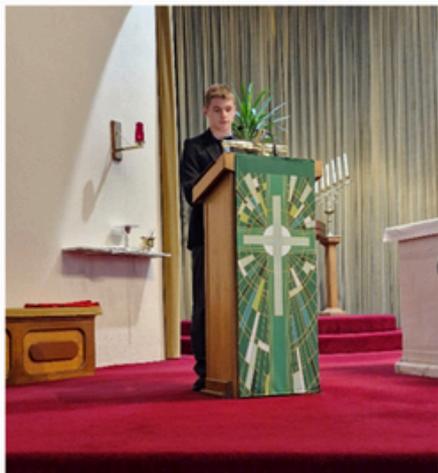


Lourdes had such an impact on us all. But we just didn't take something from it; we left something behind, - our school candle. This was lit for all the intentions of the Coláiste Choilm community. Finally, a very special bottle was filled with Lourdes water for our opening of the year mass.



## Creating Partnership

In late October, the whole school took part in preparations for our end of year mass. Building on the theme for the Jubilee Year, the theme for our mass was 'Men for others – as a source of hope'. On 15th October we all walked to St. Finian's Church, Rivervalley, Swords.



### The introduction to the theme read as follows:

"Bl.. Edmund Rice was influenced in his vocation by the writings of St. Ignatius of Loyola, who founded the order called the Society of Jesus; also known as the Jesuits. It was in these schools that the phrase 'men for others' became a large part of the Jesuit ethos.

Bl. Edmund was so taken by St. Ignatius that he took his religious name as Ignatius and was known as Br. Ignatius by his fellow brothers. Meanwhile, Mary Ward was a lady who was heavily influenced by St. Ignatius and established her own order known as Loreto. Her order and schools were similar to the ethos of Jesuit schools. A big part of the Loreto crest is the anchor; a symbol of strength and hope.

To this day, Coláiste Choilm and Loreto College enjoy similar ethos and values. Today in our entrance procession we carry the anchors of hope with reflections made by students in each year group.

Today, Coláiste Choilm celebrates its ethos rich in imagery from our foundations as an Edmund Rice school inspired by the work of St. Ignatius; let us all aspire to be a source of hope for others, a person of duty first and self, second."



Ms. Doherty designed the anchor symbol and 6 of these were produced. One for each year. Each student in every year was invited to place a label on the board with their reflection of what is to be a man for others. Some wrote characteristics, others wrote names of brothers, dads, uncles and grandfathers and teachers.

At our opening school mass, the boards were carried in procession by the prefect team. The readings, psalm, and prayers of the faithful and reflections were delivered by students from 1st to 6th year. Daniel Harvey and Dara Donegan asked to deliver the Bl. Edmund Rice prayer and they led us in this prayer before the gifts were brought up by Ms. Doherty and Mr. Malone.

Music was provided by Bobby Brown and Josh Magee from 5th and 6th year from class crannóg, accompanied by Ms. Brezing.

At the end of mass, Fr. Richard Sheehy, presiding, blessed the prefect badges with the water brought home from Lourdes. Then the prefects were formally commissioned by Mr. Boyle and Mr. Foster, in front of the whole school community.



And so from our start of term with our trip to Waterford, to Lourdes where we brought home sacred water to the story of the anchor, we have learned that 'hope' comes in places where we least expect it and in a World where so many are focused on what makes us different, we actually have a lot in common.

What an exciting start to the year!

## Oatlands College

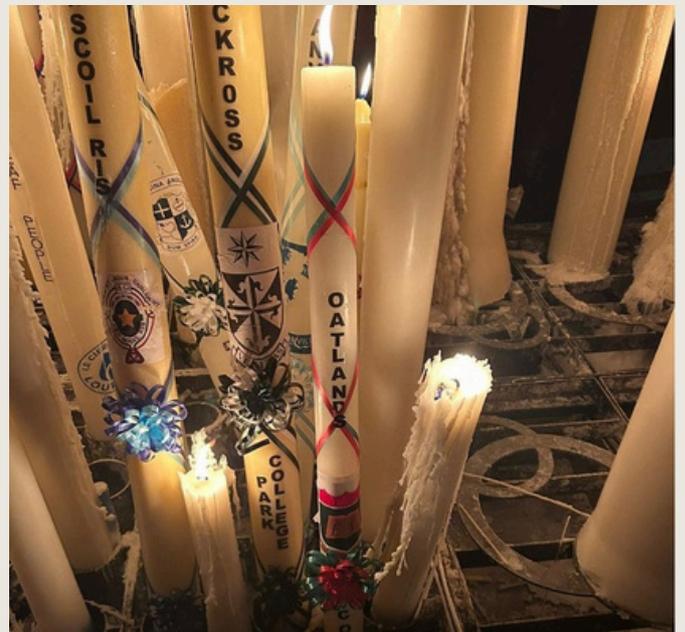
### Oatlands College Students Travel to Lourdes

In the second half of last year, five Oatlands College students, led by our Religion teacher Ms. Conroy, dedicated many hours to fundraising for a very special cause. Thanks to their hard work and generosity, they were able to take part in the Dublin Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage this September, joining students from other schools to see first hand how their efforts were making a real difference.

Lourdes has long been a place of strength, comfort, and faith for pilgrims, especially those facing illness or physical challenges. During the pilgrimage, our students provided invaluable assistance to pilgrims, including those with mobility restrictions, helping them attend religious services that brought joy, peace, and spiritual renewal. Each student described the experience as deeply rewarding, giving them a profound sense of community, wellbeing, and spiritual fulfilment.

The pilgrimage concluded with a touching moment, the lighting of an Oatlands College candle at the Lourdes grotto on their final evening. Upon returning home, the students shared their reflections at our Start of Year Mass, speaking beautifully about how their journey was filled with prayer, friendship, connection, and hope. Their words inspired the entire school community as we began a new academic year together.







### **Student Council Fundraising for Barnardos**

This year's Student Council held a thoughtful discussion about where to direct the funds from our traditional Halloween Dress-Up Day. After much consideration, they chose Barnardos Ireland as this year's charity, a wonderful cause supporting children and families across the country.

On Friday, the school was alive with creativity and colour as countless weird and wonderful student and teacher costumes filled the corridors. The atmosphere was electric, and thanks to everyone's enthusiasm and generosity, we raised almost €700 for Barnardos!

Among the standout costumes were a headless man, a washing machine, and a very elegant Princess Diana, who all took home prizes for best overall looks. Ms. Daly won Best Dressed Teacher for her expertly crafted Ghostbusters costume. She is pictured with our Head Boy and Deputy Head Boys, who helped coordinate this successful and spirited Student Council event.

### **Student Trip to Tanzania with the Teretta Foundation**

A group of sixteen Oatlands College students, accompanied by teachers Ms. Cosgrave, Ms. Rigney, and Mr. McConalogue, have just set off on an incredible journey to Tanzania with the Teretta Foundation.

Over the past year, the group dedicated countless hours to fundraising through activities such as a stationary bike challenge, bag packing, non-uniform days, and many individual student-led initiatives. Their hard work truly paid off — they didn't just meet their fundraising goal of €9,600, they surpassed it, raising an outstanding €16,000!



These funds will go directly towards completing the construction of a classroom, building five custom wheelchairs (which the Oatlands group will personally deliver during their visit), and providing essential food and supplies to the local community. We are incredibly proud of our students and teachers for their compassion, teamwork, and commitment to making a difference. We wish them every success and look forward to sharing more updates from their Tanzanian adventure in the next edition of Siol.



# Coláiste Mhichíl Limerick

## Charity Bake Sale in Aid of the Irish Heart Foundation and MND

The Student Council, together with Ms. Hennessy and Ms. Breathnach, recently organised a charity bake sale in aid of the Irish Heart Foundation and Motor Neuron Disease (MND). Students and staff alike baked up a storm, contributing a wonderful variety of delicious treats.

Thanks to the incredible effort and generosity of everyone involved, a fantastic total of €550 was raised for these two very worthy causes. Well done to all who participated and supported this event!



## Student Council Training with ERST

A huge thank you to Gerry Berry from ERST for visiting us this term to provide training for this year's Student Council. The boys gained plenty of great ideas and insights, and are looking forward to exploring them further during their weekly council meetings.



## Halloween crafting in the Artroom

The Second Year students are delighted to see their beautifully crafted papier-mâché spiders now on display in the Mary Ryan Centre. The decorations have certainly helped everyone get into the Halloween spirit!



## European Masters Championships

Congratulations to Mr. O'Sullivan, who achieved an outstanding 5th place finish in the relay at the European Masters Championships in Madeira. This is a fantastic accomplishment and a wonderful source of inspiration for our school community. Well done, Mr. O'Sullivan!



## Coláiste Mhichíl Chess Club Triumphs at Regional Championship!

Congratulations to our Coláiste Mhichíl Chess Club teams who finished 1st and 3rd in our very first regional chess championship this past Friday! It was a highly competitive tournament featuring teams from Mungret Community School, Newport College, St. Munchin's College, and Thomond Community College.

Our CBS 1 team, who claimed first place, was made up of David Vo, Alex Ospetov, Andrii Shtoharenko, and Saymon Prado dos Santos. CBS 2, who secured an impressive third place, consisted of Ireland Almansori, Igor Kocan, Ryan McAllister, and Colm Hannon. Both teams made themselves, their school, and their parents proud, not just through their skill and success, but through their sportsmanship and support for one another throughout the day-long event.

A special mention must go to Alex Ospetov and David Vo, who finished 2nd and 3rd respectively in the individual rankings. To place so highly out of 58 competitors in their first school tournament is a testament to their dedication and commitment to our chess club over the past several years. Well done, lads! We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Ms. O'Sullivan Glynn and St. Munchin's College for hosting the event, and to John Alfred of ChessZ for running the tournament so smoothly.

Finally, thank you to Mr. Rowan for accompanying our teams and capturing some great photos of the day. A fantastic achievement all around, well done, Coláiste Mhichíl Chess Club.



## Basketball Triple Victory

This term, our U16 and U19 basketball teams enjoyed a fantastic day at a blitz hosted by Gaelcholáiste, coming away with three impressive wins. Well done to all the boys involved on their hard work and teamwork. A special thank you to their coaches, Ms. Kavanagh and Mr. Naughton, for their dedication and commitment to the school's basketball teams.



## New Breakfast Club

This year, we are delighted to introduce our Breakfast Club, available to all students each morning. The club offers a delicious selection of pastries, fresh fruit, scones, toast, tea, juices, and more — providing a welcoming start to the school day for everyone.



## Positive Behaviour Poster Competition

Congratulations to all the participants of the Positive Behaviour Poster Competition, we received 35 superb entries, the senior runners up were Samuel Slanina and Pranav Punitha, senior winners were Philip Purcell and Dharrshan Prakash, Junior runners up were Szymon Richter and Brooklyn McCarthy, Junior winners were Michael Silas and Pragadeesh Prakash. Well done to all who competed and to the staff who helped with this initiative.

Congratulations to September Positive Behaviour winners Darrey Roche Lamidi, Bernard Ndlovu, David Vo, Afeef Lasisi, Ryan McAlister, Luke Geraghty. All students received a certificate and a voucher for JD sports. Keep up the good work. Thank you to the Positive Behaviour team and Ms O'Connor for the photos.



## Transition Year Activities

This term, our Transition Year students have been busy taking part in a wide range of exciting activities. They enjoyed hiking, tested their teamwork and problem-solving skills in the Limerick Escape Rooms, took part in barista training at Hook & Ladder, and participated in weight training sessions at Limerick City Gym, along with many other engaging experiences throughout the term.





### **Golf News**

Congratulations to 6th Year student Luke Carey, who achieved an outstanding 3rd place finish out of 74 players in the Munster Senior Schools Golf Tournament. Luke shot an excellent level par round in Killarney, performing brilliantly in testing conditions. Well done to Luke on this fantastic achievement, and a special thank you to Mr. Woulfe for accompanying him to the tournament.



## New Ross CBS

### CBS School Walk

Our annual School Walk, a highlight of the wellbeing calendar, took place on 26th September which turned out to be a lovely bright sunny Autumn morning.

TY students distributed high-vis vests in the basketball courts, and soon staff and students from every year group were on their way. Leading the 8 km route were the eager First Years, taking part in their first CBS walk.

The walk offers a wonderful chance for students to chat with friends and teachers while enjoying fresh air and exercise. Teachers are at junctions to help students cross carefully at areas such as Manion's roundabout and O'Hanrahan Bridge to name but a few.

In the past few years our route has changed to encompass part of our local Greenway. A welcome pit stop at the Gala Shop—complete with ice creams supported by Gala—helped everyone recharge before the return leg over O'Hanrahan Bridge and up the refurbished Goat Hill steps.

We are very thankful to our student body who collected sponsorship in the 2 weeks beforehand. All funds raised will go directly back into school projects for the coming academic year.



## Celebrating the Amber Flag at CBS

In September 2025, CBS proudly raised the Amber Flag for the very first time. This achievement was the culmination of a year of hard work, dedication, and collaboration by our Amber Flag Committee, supported by staff coordinators Ms. Butler, Ms. Owens and Ms. Sinnott. Together, they have helped place positive mental health and inclusivity at the centre of school life.

As the Committee explains: "The Amber Flag is all about Mental Health. We are here to support our community, encourage positive mental health, overcome challenges, build resilience and spread awareness. We are here to help you realise that you are not alone.

We wish to create a healthy, inclusive environment here in our school."

Throughout the year, the Committee, with guidance from Ms. Butler, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Sinnott, organised a wide range of initiatives to raise awareness and foster belonging. These included Mental Health Week, Stand-Up Week, Autism Awareness Month, Anti-Bullying Week, Friendlink and participation in Darkness into Light. Each event provided opportunities for students to engage in meaningful conversations, celebrate diversity and support one another.



Earning the Amber Flag required commitment and creativity. Among the many projects undertaken were:

- Research into autism-friendly practices through visits to local supermarkets, inviting guest speakers and exploring supports available for neurodivergent individuals.
- Fundraising efforts for Darkness into Light, alongside charity events such as the Stand-Up Week bake sale and Jersey Day.
- Creative awareness activities such as puzzle-piece artwork, poster competitions and information boards displayed throughout the school.

In the words of Chairperson Zofia Kopaniarz and Vice Chairperson Natalia Ferbes: "We managed to complete all of the goals we set for ourselves. We will continue to strive towards creating a safe environment in our school community where everyone spreads kindness and accepts each other."

The first raising of the Amber Flag was a proud moment for the entire school community and a recognition of the commitment shown by the Committee. With new initiatives planned, members are determined to build on this success and ensure that positive mental health remains at the heart of school life.

The Amber Flag now flies as a visible reminder of the school's ongoing commitment to wellbeing, inclusivity and resilience.

It symbolises not only what has been achieved but also what lies ahead – a community where every student and staff member is supported, valued and encouraged to thrive.



## Friendlink Returns at CBS

The Friendlink initiative, developed and run by the Amber Flag Committee, is back up and running at CBS. The first session of the year was a great success, with over 30 First Years and Second Year students taking part.

Friendlink takes place every Thursday at lunchtime in Room 9 and provides a welcoming space where students can relax, socialise and take part in a wide range of activities. These include Lego, jigsaws, play dough, colouring, quizzes, sports skills and knitting, to name just a few.



The initiative is designed especially for younger students as they adjust to life in secondary school. For many First Years, settling in and making new friends can feel daunting after the move from primary school. Friendlink provides a fun, informal environment to help students connect with others in their year group. Second Year students are also encouraged to attend, particularly those who would like to broaden their friendship circles.

More than just a lunchtime activity, Friendlink represents a valuable opportunity for students to build friendships, strengthen social skills and support positive wellbeing. Its success reflects the ongoing commitment of the Amber Flag Committee to create an inclusive, caring, and supportive school community.

With a strong start to the year, Friendlink looks set to become a highlight of the week for many CBS students.

## Opening of School Year Mass – A Celebration of Kindness and Community

The CBS New Ross community gathered together to celebrate the Opening of the School Year Mass, marking a joyful beginning to the academic year. The theme of this year's celebration was "Kindness" — a value that lies at the heart of our school community and reflects the spirit of our founder, Blessed Edmund Rice.

We were delighted to welcome our new chaplain, Fr. Odhrán Furlong, who celebrated the Mass, beautifully organised by Ms. Sinnott and the Religious Education Department. During the ceremony, all First Year students stood to receive a special blessing from Fr. Odhrán, symbolising their welcome into the CBS family.

Our Head of School, Eimear, led the Prayer of Welcome, inviting God's blessing on our students, teachers and families and reminding us that kindness, compassion and respect are the true foundations of our school community.

A particularly meaningful moment came when Sixth Year student, Ella, lit the school candle, representing the light of God's love and the kindness that guides us through the school year.

Many students contributed to the ceremony in a variety of ways, helping to make it a warm and inclusive celebration. Special thanks to Eimear, Ella, Jack, Filip, Logan, Dara, Kian, Paige, Lucy, Mya, Alex, Lisa-Marie, Ruth, Kelsi, Olivia, Marcin, Katie and Kelsey for their readings, prayers and participation throughout the Mass.



Music and song added a beautiful atmosphere to the celebration, thanks to our music teacher Ms Oakley for all her hard work and our talented school choir, whose members included: Olivia, Niall, Tesia, Filip, Leah, Ruth, Emma, Luke, Giovanna, Ellie-Rose, Sam, Caitlin, Claudia, Summer, Jake, Zara, Grace, Lucy, Caroline, George, Precious, Will, Julia, Romina, Abbie, Aoife, Annagh, Melaniia, Olivia, Illomusa, Josh and Eve.

The church was set up by Ms Rowe and our International Students Victoria and Eugenia and our Meitheal Leaders Angel, Hannchen, Cayley, Ellie Jo, Laura, Hazel, Noah, Luke, Jamie, Ionut.

We were also addressed by our Principal, Ms. Rice, who spoke warmly about the importance of our school community and the responsibility we all share in creating an environment where every student feels valued and supported. She encouraged everyone to carry the message of kindness into everyday life (including digital life) and school life — to look out for one another, to show respect and to help make CBS New Ross a place where everyone can flourish both academically and personally.

To conclude this special celebration, all First Year students joined together in song for the final hymn, filling the church with joy and energy as they began their CBS journey.

It was a truly uplifting start to the year — one that reminded us all of the power of kindness, the strength of community and the light that shines when we work and grow together at CBS New Ross.

### **First Year Bonding Trip to Slieve Coillte**

The sun shone brightly for our recent First Year bonding trip on Friday, 5th September, setting the perfect tone for a day filled with fresh air, friendship and fun. With spirits high and backpacks packed, the First Year students took a short trip out to the beautiful Slieve Coillte.

Accompanied by their Meitheal leaders, the students made their way to the top of the mountain where they were greeted by panoramic views and perfect picnic weather. The highlight of the day was a relaxed and cheerful picnic lunch at the summit, allowing everyone to enjoy not only the surroundings but each other's company.

The trip was also supported by staff members Mr Kavanagh, Ms Wilson, Ms Delaney, Ms Kiely, Ms Rowe and SNA Rachel, who all helped make the day a smooth and enjoyable experience.

It was a memorable day of bonding, laughter and making new connections – the perfect start to the First Years' journey in their new school community.



## Clubs

### Comic Book Club

Our Comic Book Club meets weekly each Tuesday from 1:20pm to 1:50pm where students enjoy reading a wide range of comics, discussing storylines, debating art styles and comparing heroes and villains. New members are always welcome!



### Science Club

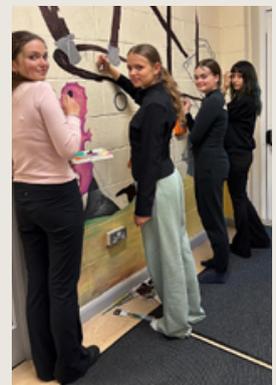
After-School Science Club (Monday from 4:15pm to 5:15pm) is open to all students and lets them explore hands-on experiments and dive into the world of discovery. From building simple circuits to experimenting with chemical reactions, club members have been learning how science connects to everyday life. The club not only gives students a chance to extend their classroom learning but also encourages teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity.

Students can also take part in Scifest competition both here in school and regionally in SETU arena. It includes developing a hypothesis & investigation plan and creating project display.



### Art Club

The Art Club on Thursday's from 4pm to 6pm offers students a creative and enjoyable space to explore their imagination while developing skills in Visual Art. Open to all budding young artists, the club provides an opportunity to work beyond the classroom in a relaxed and supportive environment.





## **Choir**

The school choir is a vibrant group of students who, each Monday at lunch time, share their love of music through song.

With mixed voices from all years, the choir brings music to life at many school occasions. So far this year the Choir has participated at the Opening Mass for the School Year. Alongside developing musical skills, students build lasting friendships, grow in confidence and share the joy of singing together.

## **Launching Our New School Crest Design Competition**

As we bring our 175th anniversary celebrations to a close, we are proud to announce an exciting initiative that will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come: the creation of a new school crest to celebrate 175 Years of Excellence and also look to the future.

Since 1849, our school has stood as a place of learning, friendship and community spirit. From our humble beginnings in the 19th century to the vibrant institution we are today, our crest has long represented our identity and values. Now, as we look ahead to the next chapter in our history, we invite our entire school community – students, staff, parents, and alumni – to help design a new emblem that reflects who we are today and who we aspire to be.

## **The Meitheal Student Leadership Programme at CBS New Ross**

Transitioning from primary to secondary school is a big step. It can be both exciting and overwhelming - a new building, new teachers, new subjects and lots of new faces. At CBS New Ross, we understand how important it is to make our first year students feel supported, welcomed and confident as they begin this journey.

That's where our Meitheal Student Leadership Programme comes in - a powerful part of school life that reflects the values of care, community and leadership.



### **MEITHEAL LEADERS 2025 - 2026:**

**BACK - ANGEL, HANNCHEN, CAYLEY, MS ROWE (CO-ORDINATOR), ELLIE-JO, LAURA, HAZEL  
FRONT - NOAH, LUKE, JAMIE, IONUT**

## Celebrating Our Student Council

At CBS New Ross, we are proud of the fantastic work of our Student Council, ably guided each year by Ms. Whelan and Mr. Curran. Congratulations to all of this year's representatives for their dedication and enthusiasm in helping make our school an even better place.

This year, our Student Council is chaired by Noah in 5th year, with George in Transition Year serving as Vice Chairperson. The council also includes key roles such as Secretary, PRO, Events Coordinators, and Treasurers, each contributing their energy and ideas to support school life.

We are delighted to recognise all of our Student Council representatives this year:

- 1st Year: Mya, Eva, Noah, Nathan
- 2nd Year: Dilan, Ilmusa, Precious, Zunique, Szymon
- 3rd Year: Jack, Ellie
- Transition Year: Nuadha, Billy, Abbie, George, Zara
- 5th Year: Noah
- 6th Year: Eimear



One of the first highlights of the year was our "Trick or Treat for Temple Street" event, where students were invited to dress up and donate €2 to support this wonderful cause. It was heartening to see so many students participate and give back to the wider community.

Every year, the Student Council plays a vital role in school life. They help organise events, represent student voices in discussions with staff, support charity initiatives, and foster a positive, inclusive atmosphere for everyone. Their commitment ensures that our school remains a vibrant, engaging, and welcoming place for all students.

Well done to all our Student Council members - your hard work makes a real difference!

## Doon CBS Primary School



Doon C.B.S. Primary School football team that played in the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol competition



Pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> Class at Noon CBS

## Scoil Íosagáin Sexton Street Limerick



New pupils in Sexton Street



Brothers Denis and Seamus Barry from Doon lined out with the Limerick Masters hurling team in their recent clash with Galway in Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford, on Saturday last.

Both are proud members of Doon G.A.A. Club and past pupils of Doon C.B.S. primary and secondary schools. They have also gone on to distinguished careers in education: Denis is Principal of Scoil Íosagáin C.B.S., Sexton Street, Limerick, while Seamus is Principal of St. Joseph's Primary School, Ballybrown, Co. Limerick.

## Ardsoil Rís Dublin



### **Jubilee Year Celebrations Pilgrimage to Rome**

Well done to our 6<sup>th</sup> year students who just completed their pilgrimage to Rome as part of the Jubilee Year. Their pilgrimage of hope centred around the four Papal Basilicas.

Thanks to our distinguished past pupil, Archbishop John Kennedy, who met with our 6<sup>th</sup> year pilgrims in Rome.

Thanks to H.E. Frances Collins, Ambassador to the Holy See, for her welcome and hospitality in meeting with our 6<sup>th</sup> year pilgrims in Rome.

Thanks to the inspirational Fr. Paul Lawlor OP for his time and generosity in giving our 6<sup>th</sup> year pilgrims a guided tour of San Clemente, Rome.

Thanks to the community of the Pontifical Irish College for their welcome and hospitality to our 6<sup>th</sup> year pilgrims.







# Waterpark College

## New First Year Classes



**New First Year Classes**



## 6th Year Coffee & Prayer Morning



Our Sixth years have their Coffee and Prayer morning again this year and we want to thank Br. Peadar and Br. Christy for getting us under way this year. Sixth Years helped our sustainable Greenschools projects by bringing in their own mugs on the day and enjoyed having a cuppa and a chat.

Thanks to Ms. Boyle, Mr. Deegan and Ms. McNeill with the running of the morning.

Saoirse Mullaney wins First Place international in TaeKwon Do

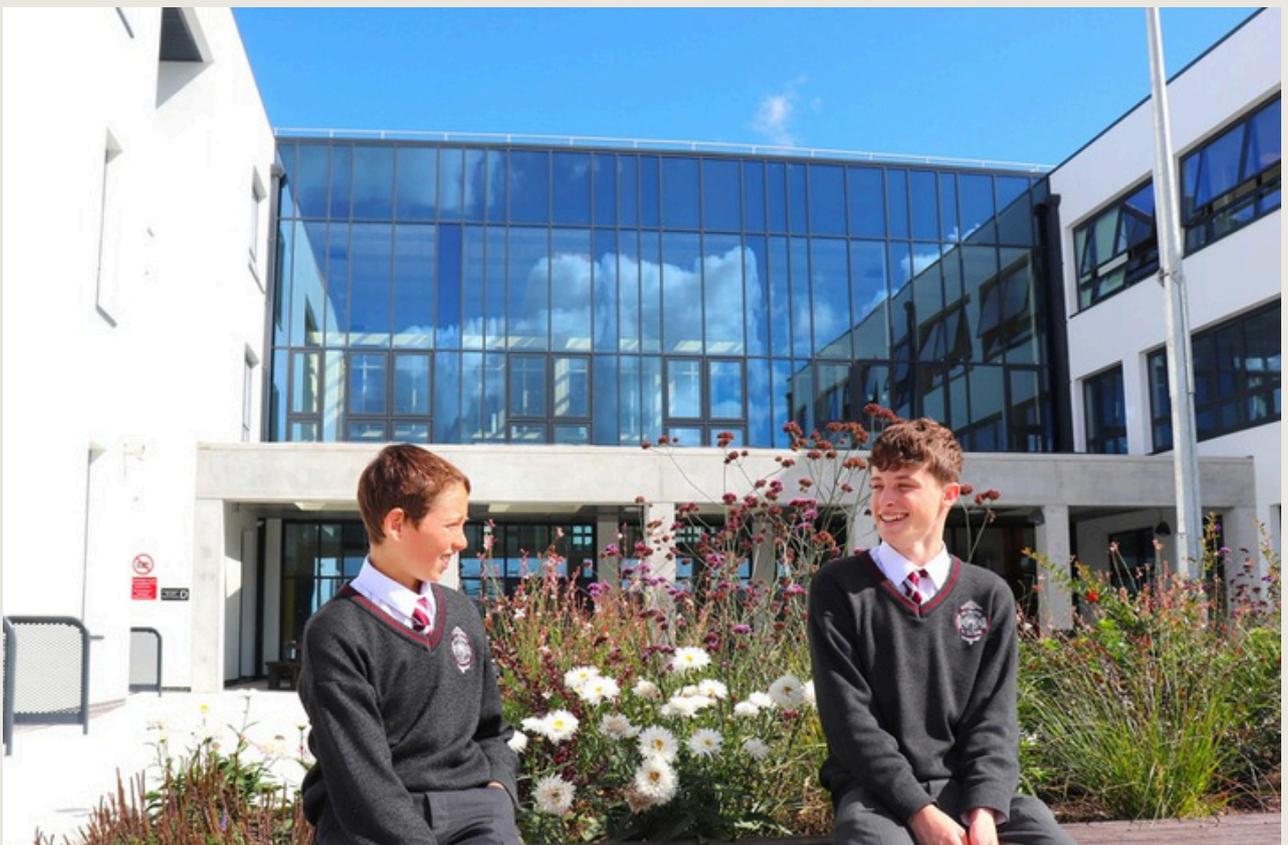


## CBC Kilkenny



### **New School Building**

The 2025/26 school year finally brought the momentous day when we were able to move, after many long years of endeavour on behalf of the entire school community, to our new state of the art school campus on the Dunningstown Road in Kilkenny. This move has been transformative for us and has allowed us to reimagine so many aspects of school life, such as Open Night, Opening Mass and Literacy and Maths Week this term with a renewed enthusiasm and vigour. We very much look forward to welcoming our partner schools in the ERST network of schools in the near future, when they come to participate and compete in a range of extra-curricular and sporting events.





### **Visitors from the Edmund Rice Schools in Australia**

We were delighted to be included in the itinerary of a group of Australian School Leaders in October. The group visited Waterford, Cork and Kilkenny, visiting areas that are part of the story of Edmund Rice.

In Kilkenny, they visited Callan, Blessed Edmund's birthplace, and our new school building and had the opportunity to meet students and staff.

We are very pleased to be an active member of Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders ([www.erebb.org](http://www.erebb.org)).

## The Abbey Tipperary



Abbey honour All-Ireland and Munster Hurling winning pupils

The Abbey School recently held a celebration of pupils both past and present who were part of the successful Tipperary Senior and u20 squads of 2025.

At u20 level Tipperary claimed the Munster title in a pulsating final against Clare before going one better than 2024 claiming the the All-Ireland title against Kilkenny on a historic day in Nolan Park. The Abbey was represented by pupils past and present including Conor Martin, Adam Ryan and David Ryan. The trio were excellent for ambassadors for the school. They excelled on the playing fields during their time in school and were part of numerous county and provincial winning sides during their time in the Abbey.

At Senior level the school was represented again by Conor Martin and Arravale Rovers stalwart, Johnny Ryan. In claiming victory in what was a truly amazing final against Cork, Tipperary's campaign to brought Liam McCarthy back to the Premier County. In an opening address, Mr. Hanley congratulated each team on their wonderful success. He acknowledged the dedication of the players and looked for the current students to look to emulate the class of 2025's achievements both for school and county.

Representatives of both squads spoke on the day. Johnny Ryan spoke on behalf of the Seniors and thanked the support the team received throughout the year and encouraged the school team to try bring some success to the school for the year ahead.



Conor Martin spoke for the u20's and he thanked the school for the invitation and acknowledged the role the school played in helping pupils of the Abbey to go on and represent their county.

The event concluded with an address from school Principal David Sadler. He thanked the boys for their efforts and spoke of the pride they brought to the school. He encouraged the current student to apply the players advice of 100% commitment to all areas of school life, a message that no doubt the students will take on board for the coming academic year.

Hopefully events like this inspire many more to don the Blue and Gold in the years to come.

## Coláiste Phádraig Lucan



We were thrilled to welcome our new 1st Year students who have joined our school community this year. Their smooth transition from primary to post-primary education has been a joy to witness, and it's clear that this is going to be a fantastic year group to work with.

One of the first challenges they faced was learning how to use their coded locks and lockers — a small but important part of becoming more independent.

Of course, forming new friendships is a central part of the 1<sup>st</sup> yr experience. Our students are already getting to know their new classmates, working together during classes, chatting at break times, and supporting each other as they find their feet.

Our extra-curricular programme is one of the best parts of school life, and our 1<sup>st</sup> yrs have really become hugely involved in the broad range of activities on offer. Whether it's Gaelic football, basketball, athletics, soccer, cricket, badminton, golf or hurling, or joining the Chess, Music or Film Clubs, or any of the other lunchtime and after-school activities — there truly is something for everyone.

First Years have just completed their 7-week subject taster programme and have now made their final subject choices.

We wish them well.

## 6th Year Talk

Our 6<sup>th</sup> yr students were treated to an engaging and informative talk last month from two representatives of the 7th Infantry Battalion, based at Cathal Brugha Barracks. The visit proved to be both eye-opening and inspiring, offering students a unique glimpse into life in the Irish Defence Forces and the wide range of opportunities it can provide.

The two serving privates, who generously gave their time to speak with the students, delivered a professional and relatable presentation that covered a broad spectrum of military careers. From the traditional Army roles to positions in the Navy, Air Corps, and even the elite Special Forces, the talk was comprehensive and insightful

