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ESÍOL AUTUMN EDITION



The thatched cottage in Westcourt Callan, in which Edmund Rice was born, is over 250 years old and is now a heritage centre that receives visitors from all over the world.

Ignatius O'Neill, a nearby photographer, captured the photo above of Blessed Edmund's birthplace, spectacularly highlighted by the Northern Lights, in October of this year.

TABLE OF CONTENTS



04	Message from CEO
05	Coláiste Mhichíl Limerick
07	Coláiste Choilm Swords
11	Ardscoil na Mara Tramore
16	Edmund Rice College Dublin
18	St Mary's Academy Carlow
20	Bunscoil McAuley Rice Callan
21	CER Cork
23	High School Clonmel
26	Coláiste Íosagáin
30	CBS Ennis Primary School
33	Coláiste Rís Dundalk
34	Scoil Íosagáin Sexton St
35	Doon CBS Primary School
36	St Mary's CBS Enniscorthy
37	CBS Kilkenny
40	Coláiste Phádraig Lucan
42	Mount Sion Primary

TABLE OF CONTENTS



50	Midleton CBS
52	Mount Sion Secondary
55	Coláiste Eoin
57	The Abbey Tipperary
59	Thurles CBS
61	Portlaoise CBS
63	Roscommon CBS
66	St Fintan's
68	Oatlands Primary School
71	Oatlands College
74	Waterpark College
78	Rice College Westport
81	CER Wexford

MESSAGE FROM GERRY BENNETT

Greetings from the Edmund Rice Schools Trust

Welcome to our Autumn 2024 edition of eSíol and thanks to all the schools that have contributed to it. I hope you enjoy reading about how our schools across the network are promoting the five elements of our Charter on a daily basis.

We are grateful to the teachers in our schools who also offer a huge menu of extra-curricular activities and to the students who engage in them, deepening their sense of belonging to their schools.

A special thanks goes to our Link Teachers, whose invaluable work keeps the connection between schools and the Trust vibrant and effective.

So far this year, we have hosted various teacher and student network gatherings, including a highly successful Principals' Conference. This year's focus is on "Excelling in Teaching and Learning"—Element 3 of our Charter—and it will be the guiding theme in many of our meetings and initiatives throughout the year.

In addition, we will shine a spotlight on sustainability and climate action.

To all our teachers, students, and their families, we wish you a wonderful year ahead, and I look forward to connecting with many of you in the coming months.

Gerry Bennett, CEO ERST



COLÁISTE MHCÍL LIMERICK

Junior Cycle Results

Congratulations to our students on their excellent Junior Cycle examination results this month. We are immensely proud of all the students for their hard work and dedication over the past three years, supported and guided by their incredibly passionate and committed teachers. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and ambition displayed by our students. We look forward to seeing them continue to grow and succeed in their educational paths.



Chess Club Champion

Congratulations to Alex Ostapov, Coláiste Mhichíl's Chess Tournament Champion 2024!

Alex received a JD voucher and will hold on to the chess club trophy until the next tournament.

Well done Alex!

Thank you to Mr Rowan for organising the chess club tournament and lunchtime chess club.



Coláiste Mhichíl's Annual Careers Fair

Thank you to all the universities, further education institutes, and workplaces for taking the time to speak to our students during our careers fair. This annual event, organised by Ms Nash, is a fantastic opportunity for students to research their career options.

Thank you to all the contributors on the day: Irish Defence Forces, Bicycle Engineering Academy, Mary Immaculate College, HEAR, National Learning Network Ireland, Carlow College St Patricks, University of Galway, Apprentices Ireland, University of Limerick and UL Access Office.



New School Building Update

Coláiste Mhichíl is excited to share a 3D animation and 3D images showing the proposed design of our new school building. Designed by Limerick-based Healy Partners Architects, the plans include the demolition of existing extension buildings, conservation and renovation of historic buildings, a new three-storey school extension and a stand-alone multi-purpose hall. The new €25 million school building will provide state-of-the-art classrooms, specialist teaching spaces, social spaces, science labs, a new sports hall and a special education needs unit.

Link to video: https://youtu.be/t3oE_TPuUvY



Transition Year Aircraft course in Shannon Campus

The TYs attended the Introduction to Aircraft course in Shannon Campus last month. The TYs completed a manual handling course and an introduction to aircraft instructions. All students thoroughly enjoyed their hands-on experience.



COLÁISTE CHOILM SWORDS

Nurturing Faith, Christian Spirituality and Gospel Based Values

Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

In September, Charlie Duffy, Dónal Boyd, Joshua Ralph, Seamus Mabingnay and Alex Cheevers joined Mr. Foster and flew to Lourdes, in France, to join in the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. During the pilgrimage our experience was represented by the pilgrimage candle which was lit at the front of the school.



The work started immediately, helping pilgrims to the plane and looking after them.

Our students were working from 7:30am to 11pm every night, assisting pilgrims, and taking part in liturgy duties. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, performing karaoke to entertain the pilgrims long into the night, running table quizzes, performing water duty at the masses.

During the opening mass, celebrated by the Archbishop of Dublin, Dermot Farrell, Alex Cheevers provides water to pilgrims.

Friendships for life were made between our school and the team from St. Paul's Raheny.

One of the highlights of the pilgrimage was the candlelit procession. Over 2,500 people walked behind the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Coláiste Choilm was one of two schools chosen to lead the procession, with our 5 students walking beside the statue as the crowds walked behind. They then joined his grace, the Archbishop Dermot Farrell and Bishop Paul Dempsey on the steps of the Basilica as we all watched on.

The main duty of a Brancardier (Male Volunteer) is to assist the pilgrims in getting to the different ceremonies.



There is a tradition in Lourdes of lighting a candle as a sign of hope. The Coláiste Choilm candle was carried through the streets of Lourdes by Seamus and lit by all 5 students and placed in the Chapel of Light.



School Mass

To mark the opening of the new year, the full school community gathered in St. Finian's Church, Rivervalley. The theme of the mass was inspired by our experiences in Lourdes, and was 'Shine your light so bright, it leads others out of the darkness'. Students from all years, led the procession into the church, brought up symbols, proclaimed readings and prayers of the faithful and presented the gifts. Four 5th year students, joined Adam Byrne 6th year Prefect to lead the congregation in the reflection, the prayer of Bl. Edmund Rice and St. Patrick's Breastplate.



The symbols presented at mass, included

- the icon of Bl. Edmund,
- a picture of the staff,
- the school flag,
- A CBA
- A Fuse Anti-bullying certificate
- A picture of the campfire from the recent TY formation experience
- A jersey
- The School Candle
- The Past Pupils Candle
- The Lourdes Candle
- The Prefect Badges.

Mr. Boyle gave the Principal's address, commenting on the symbols presented, especially the different candles and the image of a campfire, and reminded each member of the community to be a light for each other, just as Bl. Edmund is a light for all of us.



Caring School

To start our new year together, several groups were brought on wellbeing walks organised by teachers and Year Heads too. What better way to take a step back during a busy year and walk the beach at Bull island. Some went swimming, others played football, but all walked together.



Promoting Partnership

New challenges and new targets saw the Students' Council reconvene and launch head first into the review of the Code of Behaviour. They also enjoyed the chance to work with other ERST schools and are seen here taking part in the recent Students' Council zoom meeting. The Students' Council will be registering to work with another in the Laudato Unity Project.



Excelling in Teaching and Learning

The 9th October saw great celebrations in Coláiste Choilm as the Junior Cycle class of 2024 collected their results. With Higher Merits and Merits all round it was a day filled with pride for mums and dads and the students who did us all so proud.



Congratulations also to our past pupil Charles Alexander, who's Leaving Certificate Technology project was selected by the judges to represent 'region 11' at the upcoming Engineering and Technology Teachers Association (ETTA) National Conference.



Promoting Transformational Leadership

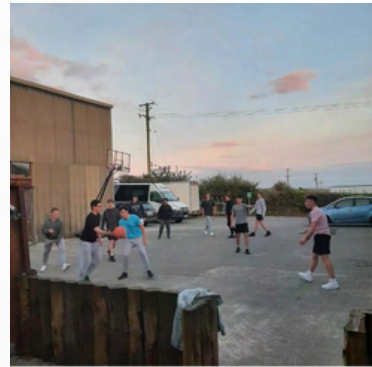
Just before classes started, the incoming 6th year Prefects took part in Prefect Leadership Formation Experience. The experience consists of an overnight to Waterford City where Bl. Edmund set up his first school. This is a leadership training formation experience, funded by the Board of Management. It comprises of the 4F's:

·Fun – the bonds for the next year are formed through fun activities. The students enjoy the activities in the Dunmore Adventure Centre in Waterford.

·Formation – the students visit Mount Sion in Waterford. The first established Bl. Edmund Rice School. They get to see the monastery, meet the brothers who live there and literally walk in the footsteps of Bl. Edmund.

·Faith – Br. Peadar brought the students on a detailed tour of the campus and led a reflection at the resting place of Bl. Edmund.

·Function – The first prefect meeting is held in the monastery. What better way to start 6th year than in Edmund's own home! The Prefects set out their goals and targets for the year ahead.



Prefects enjoying a game of basketball at the hostel after a busy day in Waterford.



Prefects assemble in the Edmund Rice Chapel in Mount Sion, Waterford.



ARDSCOIL NA MARA TRAMORE



Opening of New School Year Mass

Our new school year got off to a prayerful start with our annual Opening of Year Mass in the Church of the Holy Cross here in Tramore. The whole school community took part in the celebration which was a chance for us to gather our thoughts and prayers as we begin the new school year. Thanks to the RE and Music Departments for all their hard work preparing the students for this Mass.





Australian Visitors

In October, we had the pleasure of hosting a group of Edmund Rice educators from Australia. They visited Cork, Waterford, Kilkenny, Glendalough and Dublin during their time here.

They were particularly interested in how our ethos is promoted in the school and we were interested in how this is done in Edmund Rice schools in Australia.

Jo Hart, director of culture and formation in Victoria, accompanied the group. She has been to Ireland many times, including to the international EREBB Congress in May 2023.





United States Edmund Rice Advocacy Trip

Our American Edmund Rice Advocacy Trip took place in October. Our principal Mr Padraig Cawley and deputy principal Mrs. Aoife Denton travelled with members of our senior Advocacy team. They had a wonderful experience where they got to visit two Edmund Rice Schools in Chicago.

They were able to attend classes and speak with different student groups. The schools were also sending students to Action in New Jersey, which was the Student Leadership Conference and our students were able to attend. Advocacy was the main theme of the conference and our advocacy team were able to work on campaign ideas for the coming year.

They also had the opportunity to visit the UN in New York and met with Brother Kevin Cawley from the Edmund Rice International office. It was an unbelievable week that will influence their advocacy work for the year and beyond. Our student leaders also completed the three day Edmund Rice North American Action Advocacy Workshop. It was a jam packed trip.

The trip made many memories for members of our Advocacy team and helped them explore many themes we have been working on in our Peace and Justice Group including homelessness, poverty and the meaning of Advocacy and Action.



Relics Of St Bernadette Pilgrimage / Waterford Ireland Sept 2024

A small group of Fifth Year students Chloe Webster ,Daniel Andrews, David Elliot and their religion teacher Ms Lonergan visited the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity Waterford recently to venerate the Relics of St Bernadette. This was a very unique experience and opportunity to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore . Bishop Alphonsus Cullinane led us in prayer and the students had a chance to discuss the significance and life of St Bernadette following prayers and reflection.



Student Leadership

Our student leadership team for the school year 2024/25 is up and running. Leon Murphy, Head Boy, Aoife Milner, Head Girl will be assisted by Jamie Dundon and Jamie Clancy Deputy Head Boys and Robyn O' Grady and Katie O' Neill, deputy Head Girls.

The group is pictured here with their year head Ms. Rachel Fleming and deputy principal Mr. Brendan Cahill.





Focus Ireland Sleep Out

The annual Focus Ireland Sleep Out took place in the grounds of our school on Friday 11th of October. Over 40 students took part and 8 teachers braved the elements that Friday night to sleep out and raise awareness and much needed funds for Focus Ireland. The night was organised by our Peace and Justice Group.



Young St. Vincent de Paul at Ardscoil na Mara.

Young St. Vincent De Paul is back up and running in Ardscoil na Mara with a huge amount of Transition Year volunteers eager to get stuck into the projects. Congratulations to our elected President Frances McCann and Vice President Keeva Barry who will ensure a meaningful experience in volunteering and social action. Students are already planning penalty shootout and bake sale fundraisers to raise money which will go towards little treats for nurses in the local hospital at Christmas time. They are also kindly donating their time to helping with the annual Trick or Treat for Children's Foundation day the school holds every year. Not to mention the Paired Reading they are involved in with first years. There is no stopping this fabulous group's charitable ambitions and we look forward to more projects throughout the year. The group is pictured here with organising teacher Ms. Aisling Knight and Deputy Principal Ms. Sharon Power.

EDMUND RICE COLLEGE PHOENIX PARK DUBLIN



'We are Eire. We are Edmund Rice. We are Not Alone.'

ERST Principal's Conference

We at Edmund Rice College, Phoenix Park, Dublin were honoured and privileged to open the 2024 ERST Principal's Conference in September.

Focusing on our diversity, inclusivity and uniqueness, all involved represented us impeccably under the guise of Blessed Ignatius Edmund Rice and our four core values: Generosity, Compassion, Faith and Courage.

During a flag procession of the 63 nationalities in our school, Head Girl Safa opened the ceremony with a rousing speech on the challenges we face today and how we must embrace diversity. Our choir and band wowed the audience with mesmerising renditions of 'We are Not Alone', the Nigerian hymn 'Imela' and 'As the Waters Cover the Sea' whilst students also performed a traditional and contemporary Indian dance which took the house down.

Senior Prefect Dylan continued the motif and was equally powerful in his words as Safa.

HUGE well done to all students involved and thanks to Ms Keenan and Mr Mac Manus for guiding the students throughout.

Extracts from the performances are [here](#) and [here](#).





Students and Staff Shine a Light to Raise Over €20,000!

On Friday 11th October, Edmund Rice College Dublin took part in the Shine A Light Sleep-Out in aid of Focus Ireland with our Transition Year group. The TYs, and a number of staff, slept for the night in tents at the front of the school and, with the help and support of many other teachers who visited at the start of the evening, Dash Cafe and Suzy's Deli, we all managed to survive the night and make brilliant memories while doing it.

Although it was a tough challenge, it is nothing compared to the hardship that so many homeless people suffer on a daily basis. It really put into perspective, for staff and students alike, what so many in our country have to endure.

With that in mind, we are delighted to say that we raised over €20,000 for Focus Ireland and are hoping to make it an annual event.

Thank you to everyone who supported us, especially Mr Kavanagh for organising the hugely successful event.





Sagar Sapkota receives a Naughton Foundation Scholarship

We are extremely proud of Sagar Sapkota, a past pupil of St Mary's Academy CBS Carlow, who has been awarded a prestigious Naughton Foundation Scholarship worth €24,000. Sagar, who achieved an outstanding 625 points in his Leaving Certificate and worked very hard during his time at St. Mary's CBS, received the award at a ceremony on Saturday, October 12th, in the Trinity Business School in Dublin. The award was presented by Dr. Martin Naughton, his wife Carmel, and Taoiseach Simon Harris.

Sagar's who is now studying Mechatronic Engineering at Dublin City University, is an inspiration to all students at St. Mary's CBS. His hard work and commitment show what is possible through perseverance and excellence. The Naughton Foundation, which has awarded over €6 million in scholarships to more than 450 exceptional students since 2008, recognizes the brightest talents in science, engineering, and technology across Ireland.

Ms Mason Awarded Amgen Biotech Experience Grant

In August, Ms. Mason, an Ag science and Biology teacher in St Mary's Academy CBS Carlow, was selected as one of eleven educators to represent Ireland at the Science on Stage Festival in Turku, Finland. The event brought together 450 primary and secondary school teachers from across Europe to share innovative STEM teaching practices.

At the festival, Ms. Mason engaged with a diverse community of educators, gaining new insights and resources to enhance her teaching. The event, organized by Science on Stage Europe, emphasizes the importance of collaboration in advancing STEM education.

Ms. Mason's participation was a significant achievement, reflecting her commitment to improving STEM education both in Ireland and internationally.



1st Year Activity Day

Our first years were treated to an activity day on Friday the 23rd of August in Carlow Town Hurling club. Our new students got the opportunity to get to know one another by engaging with multiple fun team building activities.

A huge thank you to Mr Kehoe and the Meitheal team for running such a memorable day.



St. Mary's CBS Peace and Justice Committee Hosts Successful Bake Sale for Carlow Hospice

On Friday, September 20th, the Peace and Justice Committee at St. Mary's CBS held a successful bake sale in aid of Carlow Hospice, raising an impressive €325. The event saw generous donations of cakes and baked goods from students and families, with a strong turnout from the school community.

The committee meets each week and this is just one of many events that they have planned for this academic year. Thanks to everyone who contributed and supported the event, which highlighted the school's commitment to helping local causes. Well done to all involved in organising the event.

BUNSCOIL MCAULEY RICE CALLAN



Supporting the Good Shepherd Centre: A School-Wide Effort for World Homeless Day

At Bunscoil McAuley Rice primary school in Kilkenny, we believe in putting the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST) Charter into action, especially through our commitment to justice and solidarity with those most in need. On Thursday, 10th October, we proudly participated in World Homeless Day by organising a donation of toiletries for the Good Shepherd Centre in Kilkenny. This initiative was led by our School of Sanctuary group, whose dedication to social justice has been an inspiration to the entire school community.

The Good Shepherd Centre plays a crucial role in providing shelter, food, and support for individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Kilkenny. In preparation for the event, our School of Sanctuary group worked hard to raise awareness about the centre's work and the wider issue of homelessness. Throughout the week leading up to World Homeless Day, all students were educated about the Good Shepherd Centre during a special assembly. During this session, we discussed the causes of homelessness and the importance of compassion, solidarity, and dignity in helping those affected.

We also sent out a notice to parents, inviting them to contribute to the donation drive and educating them on the importance of supporting local charities. The response was overwhelming. Our students, alongside their families, generously contributed an impressive array of toiletries, including toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and other essential hygiene products. It was heartening to see the sense of community and shared purpose as students of all ages brought in donations, knowing they were directly helping individuals in their community who are in difficult circumstances.

This event perfectly aligns with the values of the Edmund Rice Charter, which encourages us to build "compassionate communities" and foster "awareness of the needs of others." Our students experienced firsthand how their small actions could have a meaningful impact on the lives of others. The collaboration between students, staff, and parents demonstrated the collective power of a community united by shared values.

Furthermore, this initiative helped to highlight our school's identity as a School of Sanctuary, where inclusivity, empathy, and social awareness are at the heart of our ethos. Homelessness is a challenge faced by many, but through efforts like this, our students are learning to be active, compassionate citizens who strive to make a positive difference in the world.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to this cause and look forward to continuing our work in line with the Edmund Rice tradition of service and social justice. Together, we are helping to build a community where everyone is valued and supported.

COLÁISTE ÉAMANN RÍS CORK



World Mental Health Day

Transition Years attended a seminar in the Clayton Silversprings to celebrate World Mental Health Day. Students listened to a number of guest speakers, including Jack Kavanagh who suffered a life changing spinal cord injury leaving him with 15% muscle function and, Sheila Naughton, reporter for News Talk fm, who shared her story and how she was recovering from anorexia.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the seminar and were fascinated by the stories these speakers shared about their own life experiences.

Religion trip to Gougane Barra

The TY annual religious trips to Gougane Barra took place in October. Students participated in a nature walk taking in the beauty surrounding them at this wonderful peaceful site followed by a prayerful reflection in St. Finbarr's Oratory where they shared their hopes and dreams for the year ahead.



Trip to UCC

Third year students embarked on a tour of the Honan Chapel on the grounds of UCC. Students saw Harry Clarke's stained glass windows which they study as part of the Religious Junior Cycle – the search for meaning through art. Students also got to enjoy a walking tour around the university campus.



Local tour of Cork City.

First year students participated in a local tour of Cork City. Students visited Nano Nagle place linking in with our school ethos, Nano Nagle was one of Edmund's greatest inspirations. Students also visited Elizabeth Fort to learn a little bit about the history of Cork which they are so lucky to have on their doorstep.



HIGH SCHOOL CLONMEL

125 Years of Education in Clonmel

2024/2025 is a significant milestone for the CBS High School in Clonmel as it celebrates 125 years since its establishment in 1899. This followed significant work by the Christian Brothers of Clonmel, a group of leading citizens, the Parish Priest of SS Peters and Paul's and the Bishop of Waterford and Lismore who initiated the project of providing a Catholic High School for the town and district of Clonmel to provide education 'for every class in the community'. The original building still stands tall and is used on a daily basis by the High School today.

Over the years, the school has played a crucial role in the educational development of young people in Clonmel and its surrounding areas. It has built a strong reputation for academic excellence, extracurricular achievements and a commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive community. It has undergone significant evolution in this period, adapting to changes in education, society and technology whilst remaining committed to its inclusive ethos as a Catholic school founded in the Edmund Rice tradition.

In the early years it saw a growing demand for education, leading to an increase in student enrollment and the need for expansion in facilities and staff. It also saw the need for extracurricular activities, including sports, music, chess, debating and Model UN which served as an integral addition to student life. It has embraced technological changes, incorporating computers and digital tools into the classroom. Significant investments were made in upgrading the school's infrastructure, including the construction of new classrooms, science labs and an all-weather pitch. The new extension, which will start soon, costing 8.5 million indicates further the continuous upgrading of its facilities.

Education for all.

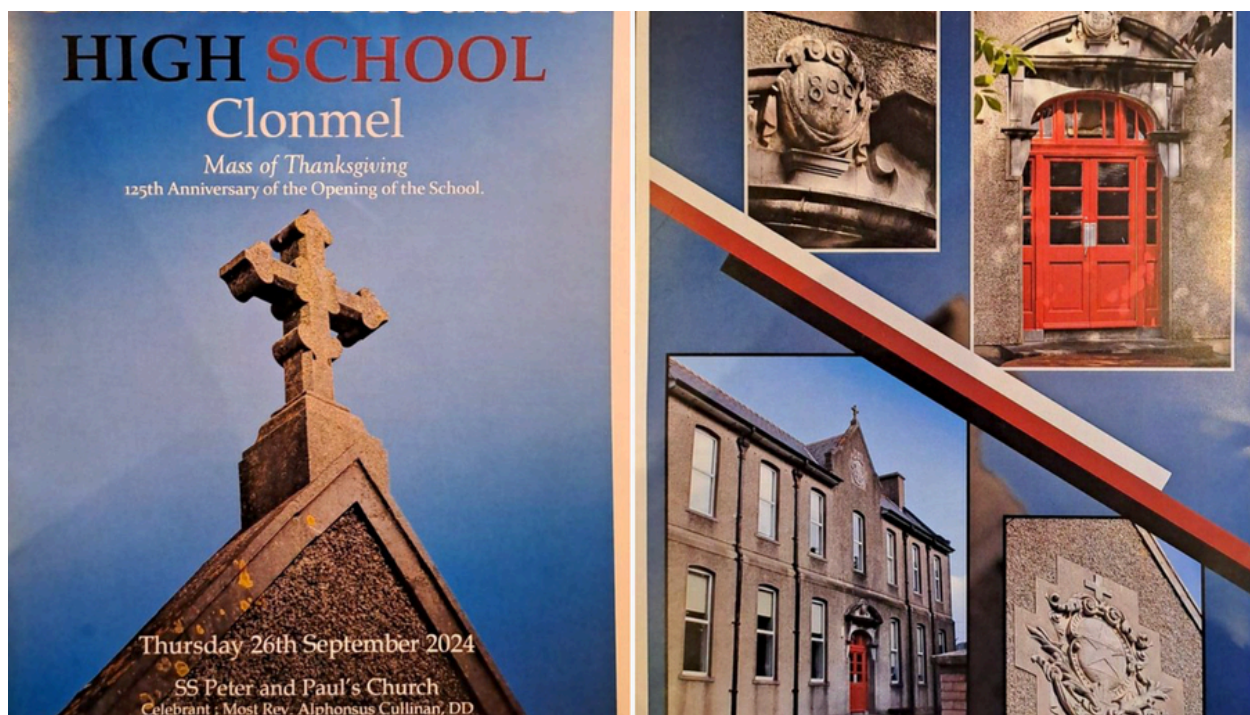
Since 2010 the school has made significant strides in embracing neurodiversity in its approach to education. One area where this is visible is in the support of students with ASD into mainstream classrooms. As the understanding of neurodiversity deepens, so too does the commitment of a highly qualified staff to provide these students with the tools and resources they need to thrive alongside their peers. 'The Hub' is an area which offers a safe haven, a structured environment and specialised teaching strategies.



Bishop Cullinane, Fr Treacy, Fr Carey and Chaplain, Fr Toomey.

Adapting to national educational reforms, the school updated its curriculum to align with the new Junior and Leaving Certificate programs, focusing on student-centered learning and assessment. In recent years, subjects such as Agricultural Science, Politics and Society and Computer Science have been added to the already extensive subject choice list for Senior Cycle. The school has also made huge strides in promoting inclusivity and diversity, ensuring that students from all backgrounds feel welcome. There has been a greater emphasis on mental health and wellbeing, with support systems put in place for students. It continues to strengthen its ties with the local community, engaging in various programs, partnerships with local businesses and environmental initiatives, reflecting a broader commitment to social responsibility.

Since its foundation, the school continues to be an all boys secondary school using teaching methods specifically tailored to how boys generally learn best. There is a strong sense of camaraderie and brotherhood among students as they engage in healthy competition with one another, supporting each other to excel academically and in extracurricular activities. There are also links forged with both the Presentation and the Loreto Secondary Schools, where High School students participate in both extra curricular and social justice based activities throughout the year.



Mass Booklet for our 125th Celebrations was designed by 5th Year Student, Matthew Reidy with help from Mr Halley.

The school has aimed in the past, and will continue to aim going forward, to develop well-rounded students whilst continuing to place a strong emphasis on academic success. This is reflected in the impressive performance of students in state exams, particularly the Junior and Leaving Certificates, which are critical for university admission, apprenticeships and future career prospects. This year three students obtained maximum points of 625 and the results were almost double the national average in terms of students achieving over 600 points. A further quarter obtained more than 500 points and a further 50% higher than 400 points. According to the Principal Karen Steenson, the phrase "one shoe does not fit everyone" resonates deeply in the school, especially when it comes to academic success. Just as a single shoe cannot accommodate every foot, a single approach to learning and achievement cannot meet the diverse needs of all students. Recognising this, the High School uses a variety of strategies to ensure every student thrives and reaches his potential. The school continues to be proud and celebrates the achievements of all their students.

BURSARY BOOST

**SON OF OLYMPIC HERO DONATES
€250,000 TO CLONMEL HIGH SCHOOL**

**FORMER PUPIL DR TERRY O'CALLAGHAN ESTABLISHES
FUND TO HELP STUDENTS STUDY MEDICINE** SEE PAGES 2, 3 & 4

Dr Terry O'Callaghan and Karen Steenson, principal. (Picture taken from The Nationalist newspaper.)

Celebrations of our 125th Anniversary

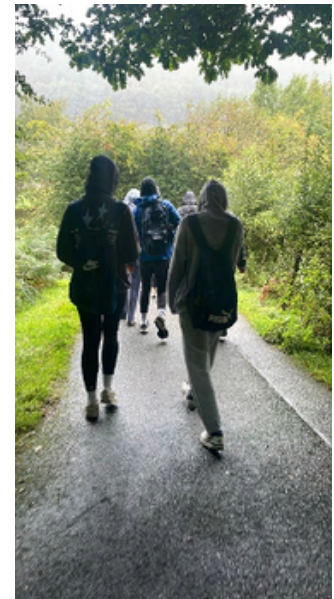
Celebrations got off to a great start with past pupil Daire Lynch and a graduate from Yale University, winning a bronze medal in Rowing at the Olympics. Also a bursary of €250,000 has been set up for Leaving Certificate students who wish to pursue a career in Medicine. This is due to the generosity of former student Terry O'Callaghan, who himself received a medical scholarship after his Leaving Certificate in the High School. Terry, a son of Dr. Pat O'Callaghan, also a former Olympian, wanted to give something back to his alma mater and this incredible bursary will no doubt hugely benefit future students in the school. Every year the school welcomes the return of many past pupils who continue to share their wisdom and experience with the current generation of High School students.

The school community came together in September with a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by the Most Rev Bishop Alphonsus Cullinan DD in SS Peter and Paul's Church. Workshops organised by former students working as translators in Brussels will also take place before Christmas. An exhibition starting on the 21st November will be set up in the County Museum exhibiting photographs and memorabilia from the school's 125 years. A Mayoral Reception will also be held in recognition of the contribution the school has made to education. In January, a televised Mass featuring our chaplain Fr Michael Toomey and students from the High School will be broadcast from RTÉ to celebrate Catholic Schools' Week.

In March, a STEM fair will be held highlighting past, present and future STEM brilliance in the school. Winners of the fair will have the opportunity to enter their projects into SCIFEST and the BT Young Scientist.

The celebrations will culminate with a Gala Dinner in May 2025 with music by the Pearly Whites - a band initially set up by these brilliant musicians while they were students in the High School.

COLÁISTE ÍOSAGÁIN BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH



Bhí téarma gnóthach, tairbheach agus siamsúil ag Coláiste Íosagáin, Baile Átha Cliath, le tús a chur leis an mbliain acadúil. Is cinnte go raibh go leor caidreamh agus ceangal forbartha ag an scoil agus ár gcultúr Gaelach agus ár noidhreacht Chríostaíoch mar chroílár na n-imeachtaí a thit amach ó dheireadh mhí Lúnasa.

Cúrsaí Spioradálta

Le tús spráíúil, suaimhneach a chuir leis an mbliain, d'fhreastail daltaí Bhliain 6 agus Bhliain 5 ar chúrsaí spioradálta i nGleann Dá Loch. Is ord De la Salle ó Bhaile Formaid a eagraíonn an cúrsa álainn 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, in ainneoin na báistí ar an lá.



Turas le Bliain 2

Bhí am ar leith ag Bliain 2 agus iad ag fanacht i nGaeltacht Chonamara le tús spráíúil agus cairdiúil a chur 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 rince ar an sean-nós, ghlac siad páirt i gcéilí istoíche, rinne siad ceardlann amhránaíochta agus chuaigh siad go dtí páirceanna eachtraíochta, Wildlands agus Elemental. Mar atá le feiceáil sna pictiúir (thíos), ba léir go ndeachaigh an portach go mór i bhfeidhm orthu. Bhí fioreispéireas 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, le foghlaim mar gheall ar cheannródaí na scolaíochta Gaeilge agus laoch na hÉireann, an Piarsach é féin.



Imeachtaí Idirbhliana

Bhí comhpháirtíocht 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 garchabhrach, ceardlanna clayotic, ceardlanna ceoil agus eile. Cúpla imeacht a sheasann amach 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. Imeacht amháin eile a chur le hatmaisféar agus le haclaíocht na bliana ná cúrsa rothaíochta i bPáirc an Fhionnuisce. Bhí laethanta spleodracha ag na ranganna ar fad thar chúpla seachtain agus iad i mbun rothaíochta sa pháirc. Bhí Dar ndóigh, tá go leor le teacht agus táimid ar fad ag súil leis!



Malartú le Cúairteoirí Gearmánacha – An Idirbhliain

Mar chuid den togra Erasmus+, tá malartú á dhéanamh ag grúpa cailíní Idirbhliana Choláiste Íosagáin le grúpa scoláirí ón nGearmáin. Tháinig na cúairteoirí Gearmánacha go hÉirinn ar dtús agus cuireadh fáilte mhór rompu i mí Mheán Fómhair. Tháinig siad ó scoil darb ainm Mädchengymnasium, sa chathair, Jülich. Rinne siad ceardlanna éagsúla in éineacht le cailíní Íosagáin agus cuid mhaith de na ranganna bunaithe ar fholláinne agus ar fhoghlaím faoin gcultúr Éireannach. Rinne siad ióga, ceardlann ar fhéinchúram, agus d'fhoghlaim mar gheall ar stair Átha Cliath agus Éirí Amach na Cásca. Chuir daltaí ceolmhara seisiún traidisiúnta ar siúl dóibh freisin agus d'fhoghlaim siad cúpla steip le linn ceardlainne ar an rince Gaelach. Chuaigh ár ndaltaí go dtí an Ghearmáin i mí Dheireadh Fómhair. Bhí turas iontach acu agus tá cuid mhaith cairde nua Eorpacha acu!



Seachtain na Meabharshláinte

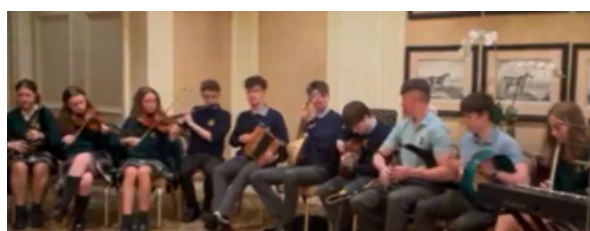
Bhí seachtain spleodrach spráúil ag na daltaí le béim a leagan ar mheabharshláinte ag tús mí Dheireadh Fómhair.

Cuireadh comórtas póstaer ar bun le go mbeadh dearbhaithe dearfacha le feiceáil timpeall na scoile.

Labhair na captaein scoile, Clara Ní Riada agus Emily Ní Chearúil faoin meabharshláinte agus an-óráidí go deo a bhí iontu; chuaigh siad go mór i bhfeidhm ar an bpobal scoile. Ar bharr air seo, rinneadh péinteáil na Samhna le Bliain 4, bhí tráth na gceist le Coláiste Eoin ag Bliain 6 le sos a fháil ón staidéar agus bhí sesiúin cluichí agus spraoi ag Bliain 2 lena gcinnirí. An-seachtain ar fad a bhí ann.

Lón Eoin agus Íosagáin – Teacht le Chéile na nIarscoláirí

Bhailigh scoláirí reatha & iarscoláirí, foireann reatha & iarfhoireann, príomhoidí & iarphríomhoidí le chéile Dé hAoine 18ú Deireadh Fómhair do lón bliantúil Chairde Eoin Íosagáin. Deis atá ann bualadh le mórfhobal na scoile agus oidhreacht na scoile a cheiliúradh. Buíochas mór leis an gcoiste a rinne sárobair don ócáid álainn, speisialta seo.





Na Cairde Speisialta – Bliain 1 agus Bliain 6

Bhailigh daltaí Bhliain 1 agus 6 le chéile le ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar theacht na Samhna le déanaí.

Gearradh puimpcíní agus itheadh cuid mhaith rudaí milse ag an am céanna.

Is traidisiún seanbhunaithe anois an ócáid spráíúil seo a thugann óige agus sinsearach na scoile le chéile.

Buíochas leis na múinteoirí agus cinnirí a chabhraigh ar an lá!

Tonnmharcaíocht

Comhghairdeas ó chroí le Maria de Buitléir a bhuaigh craobh tonnmharcaíochta na hÉireann faoi 16 ag deireadh Mhí Lúnasa. Bhí sí ar Fhoireann Shóisearach na hÉireann i gcrabhbh chlúichí sóisearacha na hEorpa sa Phortaingéil i mí Iúil na bliana seo freisin. Táimid iontach bródúil aisti. Maith thú, Maria!



CBS ENNIS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Clare Senior Hurling Champions make Inspirational Visit to CBS Ennis

Tuesday 12th September 2024 was truly remarkable day of Community Celebration in CBS Ennis as the children gave a hero's welcome to past pupils Shane Meehan (The Banner) and Eamonn Foudy (Inagh/Kilnamona) along with their teammates Conor Cleary (Kilmaley) and Jack O'Neill (Quin). The 'Banner Roar' could be heard far and wide around Ennis as both Shane and Eamonn carried the Liam McCarthy into our school. The children assembled on yard as Shane and Eamonn gave their individual accounts of their time in CBS Primary School and thanked their teachers, their school leaders as well as their coaches for believing in them. Both Conor Cleary and Jack O'Neill shared their inspirational wisdom about how hard work paid off for them and reminded the children of CBS to always believe in themselves even when times get tough in order to achieve their goals. Through a process of reflection they reached a consensus of what comprises the true heart of an Edmund Rice School-the importance of being kind to one another.





Teacher Volunteer: Miss Lucy Galvin's Summer 2024 Visit to Uganda

First Class Teacher Miss Lucy Galvin visited Uganda this past Summer as one of eight volunteers at a hospice for deaf children. Their work involved renovations to a classroom and the founding of the GAA'S newest club- 'Nile Óg Cusacks'. Below is a letter from Lucy to our school community following fundraising efforts and generous donations during Sports Day last June. We as a school community would like to commend her on her wonderful work.



Dear School Community,

As many of you know I went to Uganda during the summer with a group of 8 other local volunteers, to work and support a local school and hospice in Jinja, Uganda. I just wanted to write a short message to say thank you and to let you know where the raised funds went.

Overall, our school raised 2,100 euro! In total it cost 960 euro to refurbish and decorate a classroom in Walukuba West Primary School in Jinja which catered for 30 children who are differently abled and all of which are deaf. All of the football boots that were collected also went to this school which helped in the start up of a GAA club. The "Nile Óg Cusacks" club is now set up and coaches are training there two days a week for the entirety of the school year.

The remaining 450 euro went with the money collected by the other volunteers and helps to fund the Rays of Hope Hospice in Jinja. In total the hospice was given 54,855 euro. This hospice was founded in 2005 by Dr. Frank and Patricia Hassett from Clare. It is the only palliative care service in the Busoga region of Uganda which homes over 3.5 million people. Through this funding, patients receive free medication and pain relief while also providing psycho-social support and looking after the children of bereaved families, by paying for their school fees.

Thank you again for all of the support as it has truly benefitted so many children and patients in Uganda.

Miss Lucy Galvin



COLÁISTE RÍS DUNDALK



St. Gerard's Novena

Our students attended the local St. Gerard's Novena in Dundalk. Some of our senior students led the liturgy of the word at two sessions. This was a wonderful experience for our students to see Faith in Action in our local community.

Art Excursion to Florence 2024

Last week, our senior art students embarked on an enriching trip to Florence, Italy, where they immersed themselves in the beauty of Renaissance art. The excursion was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

During their visit, the students explored several renowned galleries and museums, including the Galleria dell'Accademia, Il Duomo, Giotto's Bell Tower, the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, the Bargello National Museum, the Uffizi Gallery, the Cappella Brancacci, and the Palazzo Medici Riccardi.



3rd Year Badminton Tournament

Congratulations to all the 3rd Year students who qualified to represent their class in this year's 3rd Year Badminton Tournament.

The winners of the 'A' competition were Sean Fay-Duffy & Hugo Dzienniak.

The winners of the 'B' competition were Robert McGuire & Patrick Holland.

SCOIL ÍOSAGÁIN SEXTON STREET LIMERICK



Visiting Teachers from Brazil

Award winning teachers from the city of Fortaleza, Brazil, who are in Ireland at present to do a C.P.D. programme on Education at Mary Immaculate College of Education, Limerick, to study the Irish Education system.

They visited the C.B.S. Primary School, Sexton St., Limerick, pictured with the school principal, Denis Barry



Ms O'Rourke's Class 2024/2026



Ms O'Ryan's Class 2024/2026

DOON CBS PRIMARY SCHOOL



Athletics

Pupils from Doon C.B.S. Primary School who participated in the Tipperary Primary Schools cross-country running event held at Thurles recently.



Relics of St Bernadette

Pupils from sixth class of Doon C.B.S., Co. Limerick and their teacher, Ms. Joanne O'Connell, visit the Relics of St. Bernadette at Holy Cross Abbey Church, Co. Tipperary.



Noah O'Kelly (Doon C.B.S.) pictured in Croke Park on Sunday last with the Chairperson of the Munster Council of the G.A.A., Ger Ryan.

Noah played in the G.A.A. / I.N.T.O Cumann na mBunscol Respect Exhibition GO Games.

ST MARY'S CBS ENNISCORTHY



Beginning of Year Mass

Our school community came together to celebrate the beginning of year mass in the St. Aidans Cathedral on the 10th of September. It was also a warm welcome to our new 1st year students who begin a new journey with us. Thank you to the Religion and music departments and to all the students who kindly volunteered to do readings and to those who played music to make this such a memorable celebration.



GOAL Jersey Day Fundraiser

On the 11th of October, our student council facilitated our school to take part in the GOAL Jersey Day fundraiser, where each participant would donate €2 and wear their favorite jersey of any sport.

It was fantastic to see so many of our students and teachers sporting their favorite jersey to support such a good cause.

The school raised €632 for GOAL's flagship annual fundraising campaign held across Ireland and throughout the world. GOAL Jersey Day sees tens of thousands of people coming together to support GOAL's work with vulnerable communities.

CBS KILKENNY SECONDARY SCHOOL

Teaching and Learning

Late August brought with it a tremendous set of leaving Certificate results for the class of 2024. It was heartening and very rewarding to witness the number of students who returned to the school to share their successes with their teachers, before taking the diverse array of paths in life which they have chosen. It speaks of the strong relationships within our school community which underpin both teaching and learning.



A special mention must be made of the ten students who attained more than 600 CAO points and of our MacFadden Medal Winner 2024, Rohan Vargas, who achieved a remarkable 8 H1 grades. Rohan has subsequently gone on to receive both a UCD Ad Astra Scholarship and a UCD Choral Scholarship. We wish him, and all the LC Class of 2024, every success in the future.

We are incredibly proud of the academic successes of our students and of their dedicated and talented teachers. This term alone has seen our students proceed to the All-Ireland Final in the Feachtas Trath na gCeist competition, present to a visiting delegation of Australian principals with Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders, debate in Trinity College, embark on Biology and Geography field studies and historical tours, as well as enjoying a French breakfast!



These cocurricular activities provide such rich learning opportunities for our students and are instrumental in their success. A huge thank you to all our teachers for creating the vibrant and dynamic learning culture.

Australian Visitors



We were delighted to welcome a group of teachers from Edmund Rice schools in Australia. The group was accompanied by Brian Garrone, from Edmund Rice Education Australia and executive officer of Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders (EREBB). During the visit, our students treated them to the joys of Hurling and traditional Irish music.



Trad Band

Our trad band provided our visitors with a sample of Irish traditional tunes. Click the link here to listen to one of the tunes. <https://vimeo.com/1026558504?share=copy>



COLÁISTE PHÁDRAIG LUCAN



Immersion Programme

The ERST (Edmund Rice Schools Trust) immersion programme to South Africa during Summer 2024 was an unforgettable journey that profoundly influenced all of us who participated. We began our two-week adventure in Pretoria, where we were warmly welcomed by the Mount Saint Edmund School community. During our week there, we had the privilege of teaching classes, working directly with students, and exchanging innovative ideas with our South African colleagues. This collaboration fostered a deep sense of connection and shared purpose, as we discovered both similarities and differences in our educational approaches. The experience enriched our understanding of teaching and learning in a different cultural context, providing valuable insights that we could bring back to our own schools.

While in Pretoria, we also had the opportunity to explore the local area, with visits to a nearby cheetah park and the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg. These excursions were not just leisure activities; they were integral to our understanding of South Africa's complex history and diverse culture. The Apartheid Museum, in particular, offered a sobering yet essential perspective on the country's painful past and its ongoing efforts towards healing and reconciliation.

The second week took us to Maristal School, a rural institution set up by the Christian Brothers. The school's isolated location and lack of basic amenities like hot water or sports facilities highlighted the challenges faced by the students and staff. Yet, from the moment we arrived, greeted by 500 boarders aged 5 to 17 with dancing, bonfires, and music, we were struck by the community's warmth and resilience. Our time there was spent teaching classes, serving meals, and working on a special project: painting and decorating two playrooms for the young boys and girls. The students' eagerness to learn and their families' commitment to education, despite the harsh conditions, were deeply inspiring and humbling.

It is essential to acknowledge the importance of immersion programs, as they facilitate a common commitment among educators worldwide to promote Edmund Rice education and find innovative ways to advance our shared ethos. Through immersion experiences, we enrich our Edmund Rice Network by engaging with like-minded educators from across the globe.



Embracing these heart connections not only deepens the charisma of Edmund Rice in the lives of teachers but also strengthens our collective ability to make a meaningful impact.

In the final days of our immersion, we travelled to Cape Town, where we partnered with Justice Desk Africa, an organization dedicated to empowering young people from the townships. We stayed and worked with them, contributing to programs that focused on leadership and self-empowerment for young girls and boys. The philosophy of Justice Desk Africa—to nurture the potential of young people and encourage them to be agents of change—resonated deeply with our own values. This final experience brought our journey full circle, as we witnessed first-hand the transformative power of education and community engagement.

To conclude, it is hoped that in the near future, we will organize a student immersion to South Africa or Zambia, allowing our students to experience first-hand the transformative power of such programs.

MOUNT SION PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Robotics Club

The Robotics Club is back in action in Mount Sion Primary School. A new cohort of boys are busy building and coding a robot to compete in the Vex IQ Competition later this year. There is lots of conversations and problem solving going on as the boys attempt to design a robot capable of competing with schools from around the country. The boys have to design a robot capable of picking up a ball, catching it, throwing it to a partner robot and throwing it into a goal.

Good luck to the boys in their challenge this year and a big thanks to the teachers for their time and commitment to STEM education.



Student Council 2024/2025

After huge interest from pupils around our school, our new Student Council members have finally been chosen. This year we have done something a little different by having members from class levels 2nd to 6th class and our Autism Department. We have a group of 13 eager and enthusiastic boys, with great leadership qualities and super ideas ready to lead our Council.

We held our first meeting where we got to know each other. Roles were decided and we are delighted to have Simun Bresic as Chairperson, Yonusimi Ajayi as vice, Alex Kiely and Richard Kisluk as joint Treasurer and Jimmy Delaney as Secretary.



We have decided on three main areas of focus for the coming weeks:

1. The school yard for play times (we currently have 2 yards, one soft surface for infants-2nd class and the senior yard from 3rd to 6th). We want to find out via surveying our peers what is missing from our yards and what we can change to make it a more fun, game filled, inclusive environment. Members will gather information and create a 'wish list' for discussion at our next meeting.
2. Bins- members will encourage and remind their own classrooms about separating classroom litter. We have decided that the 6th class members will be responsible for informing the infant classes about this. As well as that, 5th and 6th class boys will do a yard clean up after lunch.

3. The boys are excited to get behind and support an exciting initiative called 'Fill A Bus, Food Drive'. They will encourage each boy in the school over the next 4 weeks to bring in items. These items will be included in the 1000 Christmas food parcels that will be delivered to families in Waterford City. Helping to help our community. mi Ajayi as vice, Alex Kiely and Richard Kisluk as joint Treasurer and Jimmy Delaney as Secretary.



A word from our members

Yonusimi Ajayi- 6th class (Vice Chairperson): "I am very excited to be on the student council, to have a voice in the school and that I can make decisions for the school. It is also very fun and you feel like a president when you're at the table".

Jimmy Delaney- 6th class (Secretary): "I feel like I have a voice now in the school. I want to make people's opinions on travellers be better because I am a proud traveller".

Harry Scott- 3rd class: "I am excited to be on the student council to represent the boys in our school and my class".

Alex Kiely- Autism Department: "I like having a voice in the Mount Sion student council and I love to represent all three Autism Departments. I am excited to learn and achieve as we go on the student council for the next few months".



Friendship Week

We celebrated 'Friendship Week' in our school September 23rd. Every class marked friendship week with lots of fun activities. Ms. Cheasty and Ms. Power's two 5th classes teamed up and each student made a new friend from the other class. They interviewed their new friend finding out fun facts about each other. The two classes teamed up for P.E and at the end of the week each student drew a portrait of their new friend.

Michael Walsh Principal Mount Sion Primary School 2006-2024

Michael Walsh, who served as Principal of Mount Sion Primary School for 18 years, was a distinguished leader whose dedication to education and passion for the well-being of his students and staff left a lasting impact. As a past pupil of both Mount Sion Primary and Secondary schools, Michael's deep connection to Mount Sion and its community was evident in every aspect of his leadership. His career was marked by a genuine commitment to fostering a nurturing and positive environment for all students, while also promoting excellence in both academics and extracurricular activities.

As principal, Michael was widely regarded as an outstanding professional. His ability to manage the demands of school leadership, while maintaining a deep personal connection with the students, was one of his defining strengths. He understood the importance of caring for each child, not just as students, but as individuals with unique needs, challenges, and aspirations. His open-door policy ensured that pupils, parents, and staff alike felt heard, supported, and valued. His empathy and understanding helped create a school atmosphere where children could thrive both academically and socially.



Michael's connection to Mount Sion stretched beyond his role as a principal. As a past pupil, he brought with him a deep appreciation for the history and values of the school, which was originally founded by Blessed Edmund Rice. This background informed his leadership style, as he often drew on the school's traditions to inspire both students and staff. He understood the importance of maintaining the legacy of Mount Sion while also embracing new educational practices and technologies to keep the school moving forward in the 21st century.

As a mentor, colleague, and leader, Michael was deeply respected by the entire school community. His willingness to support his staff made him an invaluable resource for teachers, many of whom looked to him for guidance and professional development. He was known for encouraging innovation in the classroom, always aiming to improve the quality of teaching and learning at Mount Sion. His focus on collaboration and teamwork within the staff created a cohesive and supportive environment, where teachers felt empowered to do their best work.

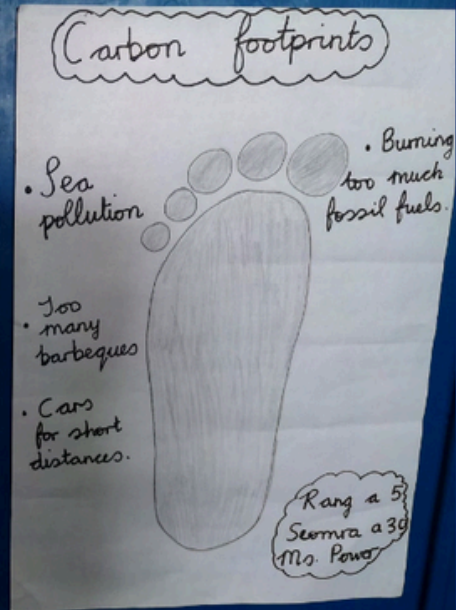
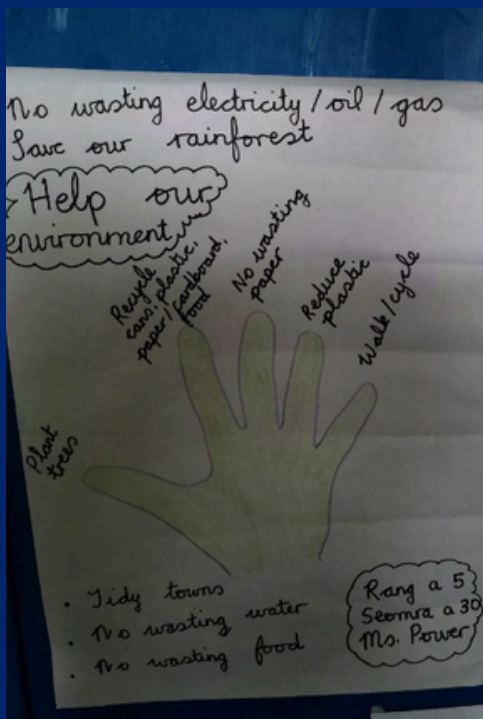
One of Michael's greatest passions was promoting hurling within the school, a sport with deep roots in the culture of Mount Sion. As a champion of the game, he saw it not only as a physical activity but as a tool for teaching discipline, teamwork, and perseverance. Under his leadership, hurling thrived at Mount Sion Primary.

Michael Walsh's legacy at Mount Sion Primary School is one of dedication, care, and passion. His influence extended far beyond the walls of the classroom, touching the lives of countless students, teachers, and parents. His unwavering commitment to both the academic and personal development of his pupils, along with his love for hurling and art, helped shape a generation of students who will remember him not only as a principal but as a role model and leader.



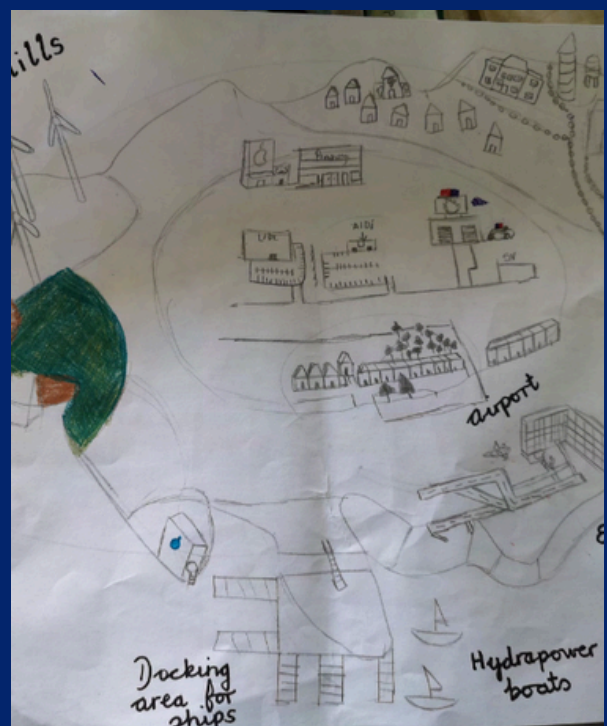
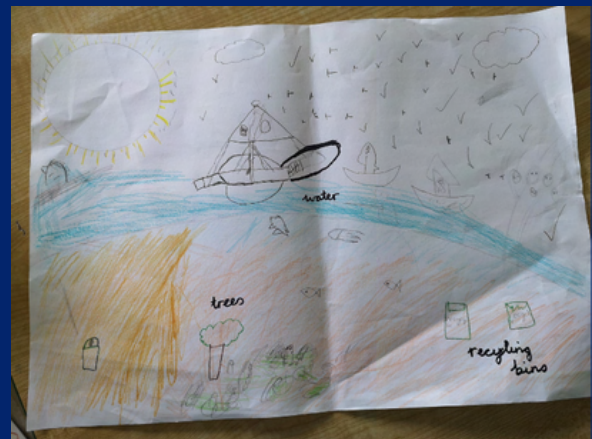
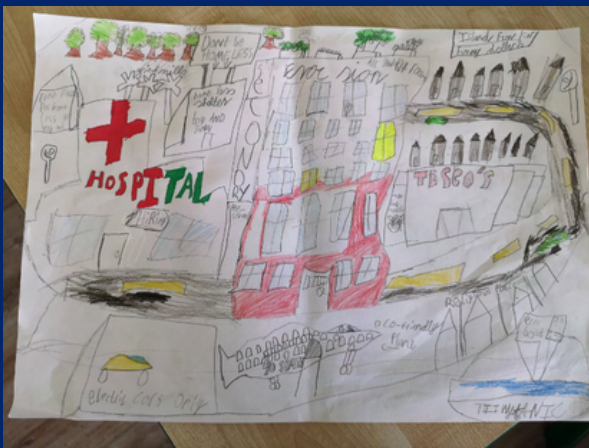
Partnership with Waterford City Library

Ms. Power's 5th class , Mr. Kavanagh's and Mr. Finnegan's 6th classes visited Waterford city library . The boys did a meet and greet with Wayne O' Connor author of Mythology and Folklore tales. Wayne created a story with the boys. He had the boys roaring laughing. He brought every character and event to life. He shared with the boys how he got to love drawing and writing as a young child. He was able to identify with the boys recounting what it was like for him as a young child at home and at school. He definitely has inspired the boys to be creative with their drawings and writing. He had both children and teachers gripped to his storytelling. The boys got the opportunity to ask questions about Wayne's work. The boys also got the opportunity to share their thoughts and questions.



Climate and Change

Ms. Cheasty's 5th class and Ms. Power's 5th class have done an eight-week course on Climate literacy. The boys have learned about the decline of the natural world and how they can make sustainable conscious decisions in their everyday lives. The boys have understood how they can play their part in the overall picture and feel empowered to take action.



Brother Peadar Gleeson reaches remarkable milestone!

It was with an immense sense of pride that our principal, Ms Burke, students and staff gathered for a surprise assembly recently to mark a very special occasion! For this month marked the 70 th year of Brother Peadar Gleeson's service to the Christian Brothers and the cause of Edmund Rice.

Brother Peadar Gleeson is an integral part of the Mount Sion community and has been an incredible friend, mentor and confidant for all in both Mount Sion Primary and Secondary schools. An omni-present character around our campus, Brother Peadar is on hand to counsel, confide in and support students and staff and his quiet wisdom and guidance has been integral to us for many years.



Brother Peadar, a proud son of Toomevara in County Tipperary first arrived to teach in Mount Sion in 1959! He has had several other postings during his lifetime of service to Rice but for many years now, he has lived in the founding school of the Christian Brothers' Order.

His visits to our classrooms are simply loved by all our boys and his inspirational attending to our communion and confirmation classes has been valued by our teachers for many years. Brother Peadar continues to guide Mount Sion boys around Rice's Waterford and the story of Edmund Rice is embedded in all lucky enough to walk the old city with Peadar. Brother Peadar also has a passionate love of our national games and he has been a supporter of all our young hurlers over the years. While never abstaining from his Toomevara allegiance, he has been an integral cog in ensuring the link between

Mount Sion School and GAA club remains and prospers. As such, he is held in the highest regard by all in our community GAA circles. This regard was marked when Mr Fanning, our HSCL Coordinator and Vice Chairperson of the club, made a presentation to Peadar at our assembly.

When presented to the boys and staff on October 4 th , Brother Peadar addressed us all in his unique, humble and inspirational way. He thanked everyone for thinking of him. We wish to repeat our thanks to Brother Peadar for his years of counsel and support and may he continue in that way for many days to come!





MIDLETON CBS



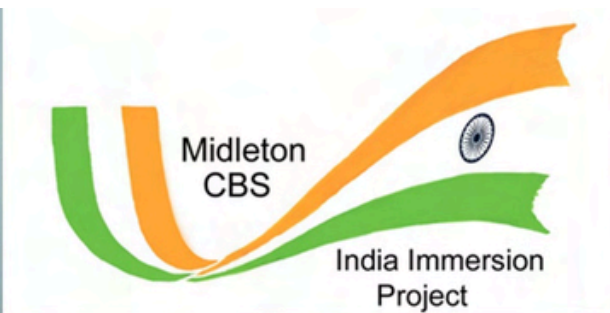
Sanctuary Runners

For the May edition of eSíol we shared the story of students and staff preparing for the Cork City Marathon. In the end 25 students and staff took to the road running as part of the Sanctuary Runners Team. Sanctuary Runners is a solidarity through sport initiative which promotes a sense of community among refugees, asylum seekers and the wider Irish community. We are incredibly proud to be part of this initiative.

India Immersion Project

As we broke up for the summer six students were chosen as part of the 2025 Team to travel to Kolkata, India in February 2025. Eric, Oran, Daniel, Tomás, Diarmuid and Eoin will spend two weeks working in the Christian Brothers' Schools for street children, accompanied by Mr. Sheehan and Mr. Wall.

Over the summer the lads were very busy fundraising; running marathons, climbing mountains, hosting coffee mornings and so much more. Since the return in August the team have been raising awareness within the school of the project. The team has spoken to classes and has also launched a fundraising initiative using the Re-Turn bottles. Our students and staff have been very generous donating their bottles with some bringing in bottles from home to support the initiative. Next February's visit will be a special one for us as it will be 20 years since our first visit to Kolkata.



MOUNT SION SECONDARY



T.Y. Mentoring

The CARA Programme, a mentoring initiative part of the Trinity Access Program, is back up and running! The following students were selected for their outstanding applications and have started the year off on a great note; Borna Saric, Ciaran Flynn, Sam Roberts, Paulo Gomes, Sean Keane, Cian Moran, Kayden Tocknell, Peter Vujica and Philip Lazowski. This programme involves Transition Year students guiding and supporting 1st years as they embark on their journey into secondary school.

From day 1, our mentors were there to welcome the new students, making their transition smoother and more enjoyable. CARA mentors also run a fun-filled weekly games club, attend their wellbeing classes, and help foster a positive, friendly school environment. With many exciting events planned throughout the year, we look forward to building strong connections and creating lasting memories!

Happy Retirement to Eleanor Power and Stella Ryan

We bid farewell to Eleanor Power and Stella Ryan, our fantastic cleaners and the beginning of September.

They had over 40 years of service between them and they were always a ray of sunshine in our school. Eleanor's seven sons attended the school and Stella's son Josh also attended here. They will be missed in school and we wish them well for the future.



Yondr Pouches

There was a big change when students came back to school this year as we introduced Yondr Pouches to create a phone-free zone in the school. The pouches lock the phone away for the duration of the school day and as the boys leave they can get them reopened at the school gate by Ms. Kearney or at a number of other release stations. The phone-free zone has gotten off to a fantastic start and both staff and student alike are already seeing the benefits.



SNA Appreciation Day

This month we celebrated the amazing S.N.A.s who make a world of difference in our school. Their dedication, compassion, and support help students thrive, learn, and grow daily. Whether offering a helping hand, a listening ear, or a guiding heart, your work does not go unnoticed in our classroom and we are all so grateful for all you do.



Maths Week

This month we celebrated Maths Week. The concept behind Math Week is to help build self-confidence and strengthen problem-solving skills in this vital subject. By incorporating various games, technology, and many fun activities, students can learn maths in a creative and less structured environment. Students took part in various mathematic activities, including maths stations, quizzes and even a Waterford city monopoly. Students from all year groups won prizes for taking such an active part in this week.

Well done to all involved for putting on such a great week!

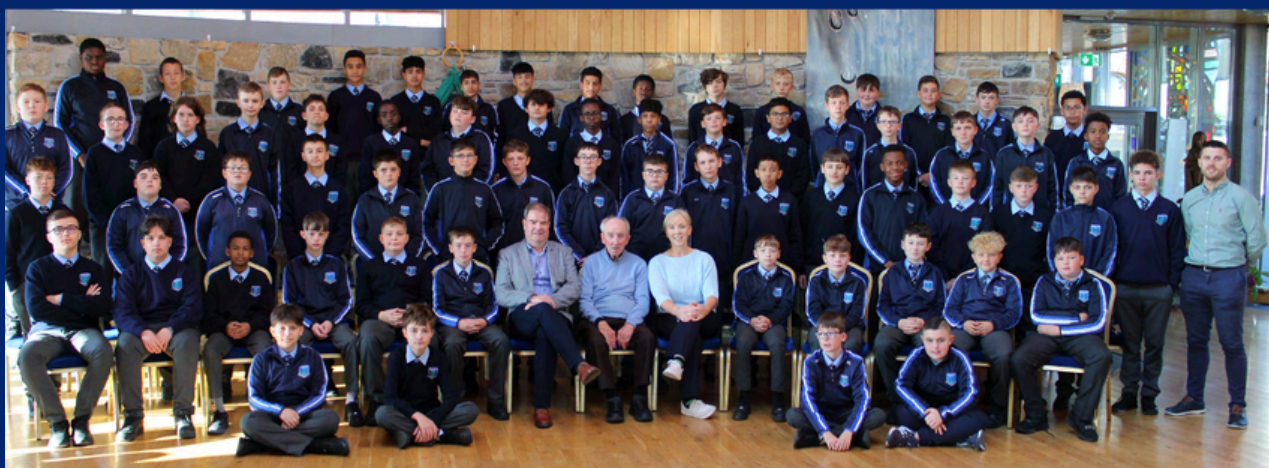


Visitors from Australia

We get regular visitors to Mount Sion from the international Edmund Rice community who are travelling in the footsteps of Blessed Edmund Rice. It is always a pleasure to meet these visitors and provide them with the information and hospitality that will enhance their experiences.

In October this year, we had a visit from a group of Australian teachers who were exploring formation and ethos promotion in Edmund Rice schools.

We hope you enjoyed your visit.



Welcome to our new 1st Years

We are delighted to welcome our 1st Year students to Mount Sion C.B.S They have just taken their first steps in a wonderful 6 years with us. We had a wide range of feeder schools this year including Mount Sion Primary, Scoil Lorcáin, St. Saviours, Scoil Mhuire Butlerstown and St. Stephens DLS. Pictured here centre we have our Principal Mr. Kennedy, Brother Peadar Gleeson, Deputy Principal Ms. Kearney and 1st Year Year-Head Mr. Nolan. We look forward to seeing what your journey holds.

COLÁISTE EOIN

Lá Spioradálta i Gleann Dá Loch.

Chuaigh daltaí ón gcúigiú agus ón séú bliain ó Choláiste Eoin agus ó Choláiste Iosagáin ag leanúint cóiscéimeanna Naomh Caoimhín i nGleann dá Loch níos luaithe an téarma seo. Bhí lá álainn de paidróireacht, machnimh agus suilóid acu, timpeallaithe le na sléibhte áille de Cill Mhantáin. Go raibh maith agat don foireann ó an Ionad Tréadach Benildus ar treoraigh iad ar an lá.



Daltaí na hidirbhliana i gConamara.

Bhí ceithre oíche as baile ag daltaí na hidirbhliana i gceantar Gaeltachta na Gaillimhe níos luaithe an téarma seo. Agus iad ansin, bhain na daltaí taitneamh as réimse gníomhaíochtaí spráíúla. Seo pictiúr den bhliainghrúpa ar a dturas lae spráíúil chuig an ionad gníomhaíochta 'Wildlands'. Gabhaim buíochas leis na múinteoirí ar fad a ghlac an t-am chun na daltaí a thógáil ar an turas fiúntach seo.



Foireann Lúthcleasíochta.

Comhghairdeas le daltaí na chéad bhliana agus na dara bliana atá san iomaíocht sna comórtais lúthchleasaíochta agus ag déanamh go han-mhaith ina gcatagóirí.

Comhghairdeas speisialta le Dylan Mac Ambróis Mac Crosáin, mac léinn na chéad bhliana, a bhuaigh a chomórtas níos luaithe sa téarma seo. Buíochas le Iníon Níe Giolla Ríogh a thraenáilann iad gach seachtain.



THE ABBEY TIPPERARY

The Abbey School Joins Celebration of Inclusion with St. Anne's and St. Ailbe's

The Abbey School recently had the privilege of joining St. Anne's Convent Secondary School and St. Ailbe's Community School in a heartwarming celebration ceremony of inclusion, held at St. Michael's Church in Tipperary Town. This special event symbolized the deep sense of connectedness and friendship that exists between the three schools.

The ceremony was a true celebration of unity, highlighting how much these schools enjoy collaborating on various initiatives that bring the Tipperary Town community together. Over the years, they have forged a strong partnership, working as a unified force to provide the best education and opportunities for their students. By coming together in this way, they have fostered a spirit of cooperation and shared purpose, demonstrating that education is about building a community, not just academic achievement.



The Abbey School played a key role in the ceremony, with all of our students in attendance and providing beautiful music for the occasion. Their performance added to the atmosphere of celebration, and the entire event was thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees. It was a meaningful day, not just for the schools involved, but for the entire Tipperary Town community, as it highlighted the strength that comes from working together in the spirit of inclusion and friendship.

Abbey School Transition Year Students Brave the Rain for Breakthrough Cancer Research

Our Transition Year students at the Abbey School recently braved the rain and donned their blue t-shirts to support Breakthrough Cancer Research, showing their solidarity for a cause that touches many lives. Despite the weather, their enthusiasm and dedication were evident as they came together to raise funds for cancer research.



Abbey School Embraces Foróige Schools Programme

The Abbey School is proud to be involved in the Foróige Schools Programme, an initiative that aligns perfectly with our Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST) ethos of fostering personal growth, leadership, and community service. Through this programme, our students are gaining invaluable skills such as leadership, communication, teamwork, collaboration, respect, and more.

Both teachers and students are thoroughly enjoying the experience, which provides practical learning opportunities in a supportive and engaging environment. These skills not only prepare our students for their future but also encourage them to be active, responsible members of society.

We highly recommend the Foróige Schools Programme to any school looking to inspire their students and build a strong, cohesive community. It's been a rewarding experience for all involved, helping us nurture the next generation of leaders.



THURLES CBS



Brother Ambrose Treacy (1834-1912), Past Pupil – Founder of Christian Brother schools in Australia and New Zealand

Patrick Ambrose Treacy was born 31 August 1834 in Thurles, Co. Tipperary. On Friday 13 February 1852 he left home for the Novitiate in Waterford.

He taught in Waterford for three years before going to Wexford where he spent eight years, becoming an accomplished teacher. He took charge of the Brothers' school in Carlow in 1863, showing good leadership qualities.

In July 1868 the Superior General appointed him as leader of the Australian mission to Melbourne. He and three other Brothers left Ireland on 15 August 1868 and arrived in Melbourne on 18 November 1868.

Thurles CBS has carried out detailed research on Br Ambrose and further details can be accessed here: [Accessibility View](#).



Harty Cup Sponsors

Thanks to Clancy Construction for their sponsorship of our Harty Cup panel. Past pupil and Managing Director, John O'Shaughnessy, spoke to the panel about his time in the school and advised them on the range of careers available in the construction industry.

He then presented a set of jerseys to our principal, Tiernan O'Donnell.

Teamwork

Our TYs had a workshop with David Collins from the Fundamentals last week. This is a leadership and team challenges workshop that David has completed with our TYs from the past number of years. The boys always really enjoy it and love the fun games.



PORTLAOISE CBS

All smiles for our JC Results

We are so proud of our students who did fantastic in their exams! We had some excellent results with some students receiving 5/6/7 Distinctions, combined with many many Higher Merits across the board. But no matter the grade, we know that our students did their very best and exceeded our expectations.



Two Students Selected for International Squads

Congratulations to TY student, Desmond Ogedegbe and 3rd Year student, Justice Iheme who have been selected for the Ireland U17 Men's Academy Squad and the Ireland U16 Men's National Squad.

The boys were selected after completing two trials where approximately 120 athletes tried out.

They will train twice a month, in various locations around the country. A massive achievement for Desmond and Justice, we are incredibly proud of you! Watch this space!



Scholarship Presentation

Pictured overleaf at the presentation of Rugby Scholarships to Logan Smyth and Finn Moore, were; David Kerr, Adrian Baldwin and Ciarán Reilly, Portlaoise RFC, Bryan Croke, Leinster Rugby, Maura Murphy, Principal and Conor Ryan, Rugby Coach St Mary's CBS. Also pictured are Dan Downey and Cillian Bowe both school and club players.



This is an exciting collaboration between St Mary's CBS Portlaoise and Portlaoise RFC. We congratulate Logan and Finn and we are so thankful to @portlaoiserfc for this opportunity!

Looking forward to the year ahead .

Traditional Cultures in the Home Ec Room

First years recently learned about the impact of culture on food choice. Mykhailo was kind enough to bring some traditional Ukrainian food in for the whole class to taste. Thanks Mykhailo!



Portlaoise are County Minor Champions

St. Mary's CBS would like to congratulate the Portlaoise Minor Football Team, and their coach, Mr. Cahillane, on winning in Midlands Park Hotel U17A Football Championship Final! County Champions! A massive result for this fantastic team where St. Mary's CBS were extremely well represented.

ROSCOMMON CBS



Cineáltas Award

CBS Roscommon has been awarded the Cineáltas Student Voice Empowerment Award. Mr. Scollan, Mr. Ferguson, Ms. Reale, Head Boy Michael Gillooly and Deputy Head Boy Gavin Staunton travelled to Croke Park last week for the inaugural Cineáltas showcase and awards event. Minister Foley spoke proudly of the work being carried out nationwide to embed the Cineáltas Plan and presented Ms. Reale with the Student Voice Empowerment Award.

School Management nominated our Wellbeing Coordinator, Ms. Reale, for this award as she has worked tirelessly to promote student voice; anti-bullying and wellbeing in our school while also introducing and leading several programmes and initiatives including: the FUSE anti-bullying programme, the Resilience Academy Programme, the One Good School Initiative (Gold Award) and Amber Flag Award. Ms. Reale also delivers an anti-bullying workshop to our students on an annual basis to promote our zero-tolerance policy on bullying while also empowering students to have a voice on school policy and issues through our Student Council and Mentoring programme.

We are thrilled to receive this award and will continue in our endeavours as a whole school community to empower student voice, promote Cineáltas and the wellbeing of all our students.





Transition Year Mentoring Programme

Our Transition Year mentoring programme is a fantastic initiative where our TY students provide support and assistance to our First-Year students during the first term as they transition into secondary school life. The First-Year students met their Transition Year mentors in September where they enjoyed a chat with some tea and chocolate bars. They have also enjoyed a fantastic day in Cuckoo Hill with their Transition-Year mentors. They had great fun engaging in many team building activities including; orienteering, boxing, and navigating the obstacle course. They finished off on a high as they traversed the bog holes. It was a wonderful way to get to know one another better.

GOAL Jersey Day

In October we hosted our GOAL Jersey Day where students wore a jersey to school and donated money to GOAL, the international humanitarian response agency who works with the most vulnerable communities to help them respond to and recover from humanitarian crises and mitigate poverty. Thanks to Sarah O' Malley from GOAL who visited the school and spoke to students about the essential work they do around the world. Thanks to everyone for supporting it and to Mr. Moran for organising the event again this year. A grand total of €442.75 was raised in aid of GOAL.



Comhairle na nÓg AGM

Members of our newly elected Student Council attended the Comhairle na nÓg AGM in Castlereagh Hub in October. They engaged in round table discussions on issues affecting our youth and collectively prioritised two issues that Comhairle will focus on for 2025; Mental Health and Bullying. The day was packed with activities including workshops on film making, drumming and dancing. Three of our students were also delighted to win prizes in the draw. Thank you to Kevin Costello and the Comhairle Committee for organising such a great day.



Mental Health Workshop

Our 1st Years engaged in a Mental Health workshop in October co-facilitated by Ms. Reale and Student Council member Cormac Fleming. Students discussed ways to look after their physical and mental health, enjoyed some dancing and watched some clips to highlight the importance of nurturing our mental health and practising our Wellbeing initiatives. Connecting with others, being present in our daily lives and practising gratitude can greatly enhance our sense of Wellbeing.



European Day of Languages Quiz

The 26th of September was European Day of Languages. We have been celebrating the languages that are spoken by our students and staff both in school and at home. Our 1st Year students participated in a quiz about the different languages and cultures. Thank you to our Modern Foreign Languages and Irish Departments for organising and hosting the quiz. Congratulations to our winning team 'Lithuania' consisting of Jonah Harrington, Conor Durr, Dorian Prochniak, Russ Reynolds, and Charlie Madden. They received a lunch voucher each as their prize.

ST FINTAN'S HIGH SCHOOL SUTTON



Transition Year Baristas

A large number of our Transition Year students proved themselves the crema de la crema of coffee making recently. They brewed up a barista storm, completing workshops and gaining barista certification in the process.



Barber Workshops

St Fintan's High School proved itself at the cutting edge of education this week with our TY students participating in the "With Purpose" Barber Workshop. Facilitated by past pupil Gareth Moriarty, the workshop gave the students a hands on insight into the working world of barber.

World Dyslexia Day

On 8 October we celebrated World Dyslexia Awareness Day and marked the beginning of our Dyslexia Awareness Month at St Fintan's High School. The global campaign, Go Red For Dyslexia, was highlighted with several red themed activities throughout the school.





Cake Sale

St Fintan's High School was abuzz with excitement as a bake sale in aid of Dyslexia Awareness Week took place this morning. Students and staff made sure it was a tasty bonanza for our Dyslexia resources. A huge thank you to our sponsors Supervalu, Lidl and Tartine Bakery.

OATLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hope Foundation

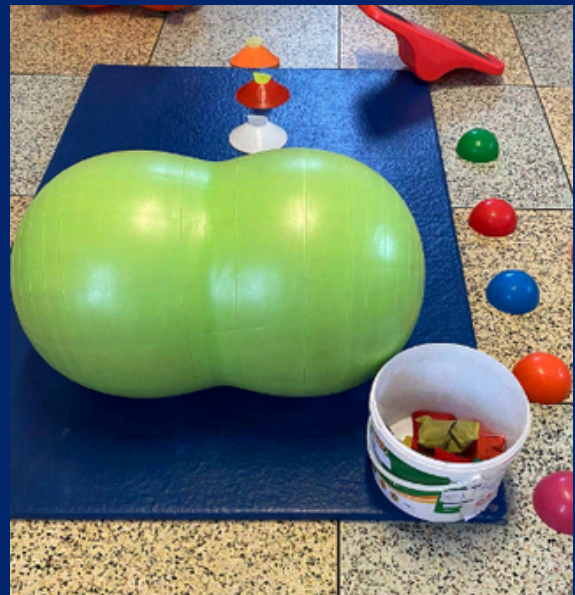
Oatlands Primary had some visiting students from the secondary school, who are going to India to support efforts to improve the lives of school children.

The foundation is an Holistic Education Programme for Underprivileged Children in the slums of Kolkata ensures the basic educational rights of poor children between the ages of 6-18 years, living in derelict and sprawling Slums. We were delighted to hold a non-uniform day for such a good cause. Students were delighted to contribute towards the great work that is being done.



New Sensory Room

The new sensory room has been instrumental in allowing so many children to enjoy a new relaxed, safe haven of tranquility, at Oatlands Primary. The foyer is now a sensory area too, where there is a circuit of activities for students to engage with. Children have a wide variety of activities which can really add to their educational experience, as well as their overall wellbeing.





Connecting to nature

Getting out into nature has been a huge part of this term so far. Students have been doing sensory walks and nature walks, looking for signs of autumn. As we all know, getting in touch with nature can lower stress levels and can revitalise students and teachers alike!





Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders

This term, our Edmund Rice Schools Trust student group, will continue to link with Runny Meade school in Liverpool. Students will have a zoom seminar where they can share news, and update each other on everything going on at our schools.

In this student-centred exchange, students can learn from one another.

OATLANDS COLLEGE



Lourdes Pilgrimage

Last month, five students and one teacher, participated in the Dublin Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage for a period of five days. Travelling to Lourdes as a blue shirt volunteer is a highly competitive process and we were fortunate to be offered five places by Fr. Paul Thornton. There were a total of 29 schools who participated in the pilgrimage.

Lourdes is a place of pilgrimage and healing following the apparitions of Our Lady to Bernadette Soubirous, in 1858. Ever since these apparitions, Lourdes has attracted pilgrims, holding a special place for those seeking strength and comfort especially during an illness.



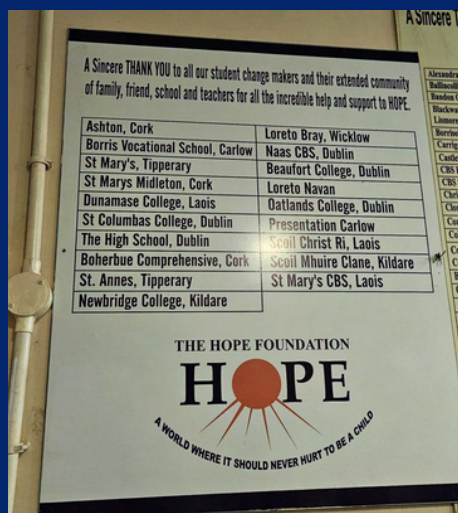
Our students worked in the hospital and supported our VIP pilgrims, many of whom had mobility restrictions and required assistance to attend the many religious services.

One of the highlights for pilgrims and helpers alike, is the candlelit procession that takes place every evening in Lourdes. From a visual perspective, this service is a powerful reminder that with faith, we can light up the darkness.



Chess Tournament

Oatlands College returns with a victory from the St. Andrews Senior Chess Tournament, bringing home four medals and a trophy. Congratulations to Atharva, Oliver, Advait and Vivaan who won the tournament for Oatlands College and the rest of the students who competed. The tournament consisted of students from all over Ireland and Oatlands had four teams competing. Each team played twenty matches in total, each player played five. Our winning team won all twenty games coming joint first with Gonzaga College Senior team. Oatlands College continues to excel at sporting and academic excellence and hopefully the chess team continues to victor throughout the year.



The Hope Foundation is a registered charity that works with street-connected and slum-dwelling children primarily in Kolkata, India. The foundation funds nearly 60 projects across the region and their goal is to help as many impoverished children and families as they possibly can. One of their programs allows fourth and fifth years to get involved in the charity's work, Oatlands College sent ten students with Ms Cosgrave, Mr McCall and Mr McConalogue this mid term. Over the past year these TYs and fifth years have been raising huge amounts of money for the foundation as well as making a personal investment. The money raised will fund the cost of their trip to Kolkata, they will personally help a number of suffering children and families. We wish the group the best of luck and will give an update on their activities in the next edition of ESiol.



Maggie Gough Competition as part of Maths Week

Maths week in Oatlands College had numerous activities including daily quizzes, attendance at Maths lectures in UCD, maths walking tours of Dublin city centre and maths themed biscuits.

One of the highlights of the week was our second and fifth years participation in the Maggie Gough competition alongside 15,795 other students from 182 different schools. Nationwide, six students achieved the maximum of 100 points and a total of 53 achieved 95 or higher. The overall mean was 55.44% and the standard deviation was 16.6%. Oatlands college performed extremely well in this competition, our 5th Year mean was 62.14% and our 2nd Year mean was 51.72%. We had 27 students from both fifth and second year get a score of above 80. What's even more impressive is that fifth year Séamus got a score of 100 points, making him one of six to do this across almost 16,000 entries. Additionally, fifth year Darragh achieved a score of 98%, and second years Toby and Thomas achieved 88% and 87%.

Lámh Presentation at the Four Ferns Nursing home

TY4 and Ms.Tobin went to The Four Ferns, a nursing home in Foxrock, to perform different stories and songs whilst using an Irish sign language known as Lámh. Originally made in the 1980s, Lámh was created in Ireland to provide a key word sign system in Ireland, for those who struggle with basic communication and needed various signs to support their communication. Lámh training is recognised by the Department of Education and is endorsed by the Irish Association of Speech & Language Therapists and Down Syndrome Ireland. Service providers give Lámh courses all around Ireland, including the HSE, St. Michael's House, Brothers of Charity and Enable Ireland. Lámh courses are delivered through AIMs Better Start and the Department of Education. TY4's performance included reading books and singing songs to the elderly people whilst using lámh. TY4 stayed at the nursing home for an hour performing and having conversations with the elderly people.

WATERPARK COLLEGE WATERFORD

We are delighted to get a new year underway as we settle into our new building. We have said farewell to our 6th Year students and say big hellos to our newest, biggest batch of First Years. Ms. Julie Phelan, Year Head to First Years, now has 120 under her care.

We welcome also our newest staff members, Ms. Katie Lanigan, Mr. Dean O' Brien, Ms. Katie Boyle and Ms. Kaitlyn Byrne. We bid goodbye to Ms. Bríd Kenneally, who has been Waterpark's Art teacher for the past thirty years.

Ms. Kenneally was first and foremost an Art Teacher, solely responsible for running the powerhouse of Wellbeing in the school, the Art Department. Ms. Cronin paid homage to Ms. Kenneally's work in so many aspects of school celebrations down through the years. Her vision and the correspondent student work complemented every aspect of our school calendar, whether it was Hallowe'en, Exam season, Christmas, Lá Fhéile Bhríde, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Easter or exams. Ms. Cronin recalled how even blinds were recycled by the Art Department to don the walls with goodwill messages for all of our school community!



The Japanese Gardens

On the fifth of September, two transition year classes were treated to a history trip in the Japanese Gardens in Tramore. Here they learnt the story of Lafcadio Hearn, a Japanese man who grew up in the seaside town of Tramore. His great grandson, Professor Bon Koizumi retraced his steps to share his story. This trip will be a great help to students in their history project later this year.



TY Alpha Youth

Waterpark College holds the record as the longest serving school in Waterford to run this youth programme. Thanks to Sr. Kathryn, the tradition continues. In the past members of the community living in Glencomeragh, Holy Family Mission ran the programme in Waterpark with the sisters and Fr. Tom, our school Chaplain. Now we are part of a new adventure as 30 students have been

trained by Sr. Kathryn to run the programme as a Peer Lead course. 4- 6 students in each TY class have volunteered and they will share the jobs of offering some hospitality at the start of the session- drinks/ biscuits etc., another student will run the video while the group discussion is set up and facilitated following the 20-minute video. The class also has its own fun with students running an activity that their peers like, for example Kahoot, Gold Quest etc. Well done to all our volunteers. The Alpha programme runs for 6 weeks, and we look forward to the launch of a brand-new series in January 2025.

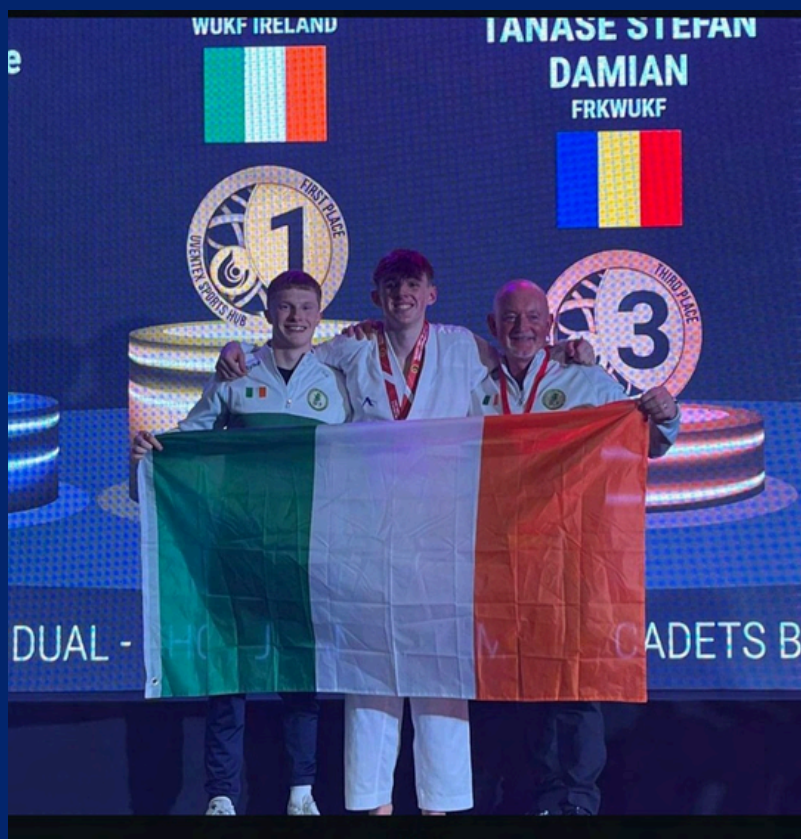


The Beginning of the Year Mass

A lovely morning was had by all our First Years who invited their parents to celebrate Mass with them in our parish church, St. John's with Fr. Rogers, our school chaplain.

Musical accompaniment was provided by Mike Darmody, Shane Barry and Adam Mernin. Thanks to all our liturgy readers and all our volunteers. It was lovely to have our Year Head, Ms. Phelan, Our SNA Ms. Foskin, our religion teachers Mr. English, Ms. O' Keeffe and Ms. Cahill.

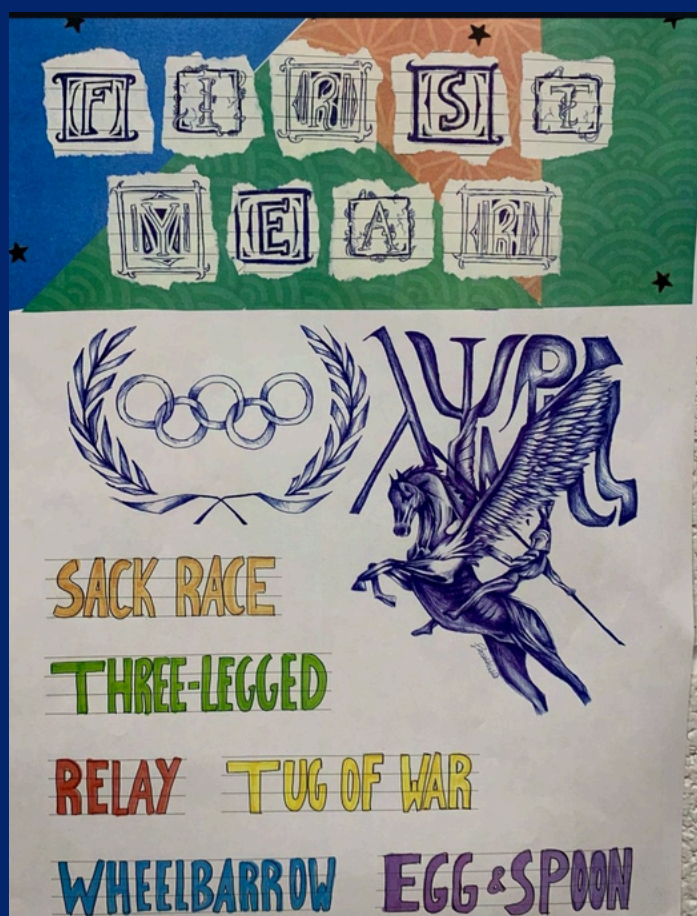
Thanks also to our Diocesan Advisor, Ms. Olivia Elliott who supported us.



European Championship Karate Gold Medal winner 2024 Emmet Cusack

Emmet went to Warsaw, Poland and had an amazing tournament which resulted in him winning his first European championship, taking home two gold medals. Emmet credits his teammates and coaches

@patrockettmartialartsacademy for his success. "Nothing would be possible without their support and training," our champ says. He had @d.gah_an in his corner for every fight, guiding him all the way to the final. Those who follow Emmet's story know that he gives nothing less than 100% to his fights. Super stuff Emmet, this is the start of a great trajectory in the sport!



Waterpark College Caras

The Cara Programme is a unique project at Waterpark College. The programme consists of twenty-four Transition Year students with the aim of mentoring the first-year students. This programme is based on respect. This scheme allows our TY students the opportunity to take on more responsibility by caring for the first years' Happiness, Wellbeing and Safety.

In October, our First-Year pupils participated in their very first event held by the Caras. Throughout the day, they took part in six different activities, an Egg and Spoon race, a Wheelbarrow race, The Three-Legged Race, a Sack Race and The Tug of War. The Olympics continued into Friday with a Cara led Coffee / Hot Chocolate Morning and Awards ceremony.

There was an assortment of treats prepared by our Caras. The Table Toppers from each class were awarded a first-place medal and a winners' Certificate. All participants were presented with a cert of participation. The event garnered much praise from students and teachers alike!

Dunmore East

In other school news, Transition Year students enjoyed a day out in Dunmore Adventure centre to partake in many exciting activities. The year group was split into two groups, one went kayaking while the other went on the Wibit. The two groups rotated so that all could enjoy the experience.

Birr Outdoor Adventure Centre

The annual trip to Birr was thoroughly enjoyed by all, which included an overnight in the Outdoor Adventure Centre. Students had a range of activities to try out such as Kayaking on the Shannon, Gorge Walking in the Silver River, Archery and Team Building exercises. It was a great trip, full of food, fun and banter. We even managed to donate leftover food to our local homeless shelter kitchen, Susie's Meals in Railway square.



RICE COLLEGE WESTPORT



The Flight of the Doves

Our 1st Year students experienced a very different type of Religious Education class. Students have been learning all about symbols and the dove is universally known as a symbol of love, peace and happy new beginnings so it was very fitting to invite Joe Freeley of "Joe's Doves", and some of his doves, to join us in class. Joe very generously gave of his time and we are grateful to him for entrusting his doves to us and for his very informative and engaging presentation. We all enjoyed the visit and have learned so many new things about the wonders of nature and the world around us.

Here are some things we learned :

- The doves eat corn from Ukraine. They only eat corn.
- They can fly at 60 kms per hour.
- Doves can find their way home from over 350 kms away.
- Many religious ceremonies include doves as part of their service, e.g weddings and funerals.
- They bathe themselves every morning.
- Their beaks are made of a bony substance and it contains nerves.
- They navigate back home by using magnetic fields of the earth and they use the sun as a guide
- They are very gentle and they don't speak. This is one reason they symbolise peace.



Fr. Kenny visiting the new First Year classes

It was lovely to have Fr. Kenny visit us and spend time with our 1st year classes. Fr. John welcomed the groups to their new school and offered God's blessing on them for the year ahead. Fr. John will be back with us again on Friday to meet with those he may have missed today. Thank you Fr. John for gently helping us to keep our faith alive.



Fr. Kenny revisited us for our last day of Friendship Week. He prayed with our IE group and blessed the boys for the year ahead. He invited us along to the 'Blessing of the Animals' in Murrisk. Thank you once again for all you do for us in our school community Fr. John. We appreciate you so much.



Paddington Bear visits Westport

Our Religion classes visited Paddington Bear and St. Mary's Church today. Before we said hello to Paddington, 1st years had learned all about the morals and values that Paddington lives by in his own life, and these are traits we in Rice College aim to instil in our students. Afterwards, we were welcomed to St. Mary's Church by the very accommodating Fr. John. Here some of us prayed and lit candles. We were also given great insight into the symbols and stained glass windows that make the church so beautiful and special. Again, we thank Fr. John for giving us of his time and gently helping us to keep our faith alive, regardless of the faith we belong to.





COLÁISTE ÉAMANN RÍS WEXFORD



School Campus Updates

It has been a very busy summer in Wexford CBS as the school enhanced its facilities with improvements in the Woodwork Department, sporting facilities and in the extra-curricular area.

An application was made through the Capital Sport Grant for an overhaul of the existing gym, a brush mower for the Astro and retractable GAA goals for the Astro along with playing equipment such as sliotars, footballs, table tennis bats, bibs, water bottles and other items for games. The application was successful and Wexford CBS was awarded just under €40,000.



Work was ongoing over the summer as it was felt important to have the gym ready for use in September when the students return. A new rubber mat flooring was installed, along with four new racks, two full sets of dumbbells right the way up to 30kg, bikes, rowers, ski ergs, benches, boxes, trap bars, kettlebells, pull up bars and a magnetic white board for instruction.

The new gym, painted purple and gold by some TY students last May, has been very well received by the students and staff alike.

Another welcome arrival to Wexford CBS has been two new dug-outs for the Astro. Playing a match in the all too common inclement weather has been difficult and uncomfortable for teachers and substitutes so the decision was made to install dug-outs which will be very welcome once winter arrives.



The introduction of new Wood Technology machinery marks an exciting advancement to our current workshops. These state-of-the-art tools and machines, including a laser cutter, 3D printer, precision lathes, automated saws, bandsaw, mortise machines and pillar drills provide students with the opportunity to sharpen their skills.

This technology not only enhances safety but also allows for greater creativity and precision in students' woodworking projects. With these machines, students can learn advanced techniques, improving their skills and preparing them for potential careers in design, construction, and manufacturing. Additionally, the new machinery encourages innovation, making woodworking both an engaging and modern learning. Exciting times at Colaiste Eamonn Ris!

Meitheal Leaders 2024

The Meitheal Programme is an anti-bullying mentoring programme for students in secondary schools. Senior cycle students receive training to equip them with the skills to become mentors for incoming First Year students. It is a programme based on pro-respect within the school community, and one that enables students to take responsibility for the happiness of others and for the safety and well-being of all who share a school environment.



Junior Cycle Results

We are very proud of our students who received their Junior Cycle results on October 9th.



Zambia Immersion Project 2025

Following on from our very successful Immersion Project in summer 2023 and in keeping with our ethos of helping those less fortunate than ourselves, we are currently in the process of organising an Immersion Project to Zambia for the current TY and 5th Year cohorts. This is an exciting opportunity provided to a small group of students who will immerse themselves into a different culture and volunteer in Zambia in June 2025.

Since 2006, our school has taken part in this project. Students and staff have helped hospices, taught and interacted with local students and contributed to the building of a school run by ZAMDA Ireland. This time, students will fundraise throughout the 2024/25 academic year for the continued development of a school called Sables Nua in a developing community in Kabwe, Zambia.

The cohort of students chosen for the 2024/25 project are as follows: Jake Maher, Kacper Jaworiski, Daragh Rogan, Jack O'Neill, Rian Bracken, Aidan Furlong, Calum McGuire, Eoghan Lynch, Tadhg Doyle, Darragh Molloy, Cian McCormack, Geoffrey Barry, Thady Cuddihy, Evan Devereux, Luke Colley & VJ Doyle.



Beginning of Year Mass

Wexford CBS celebrated the beginning of the school year with a beautiful Mass! A huge thank you to our amazing choir for their fantastic musical contribution and to the talented readers who made the ceremony even more special. We express heartfelt gratitude to Father Paddy Browne for leading us in prayer and blessing us as we embark on another year of learning and growth. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

