

# ESÍOL CHRISTMAS 2024



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís  
Edmund Rice Schools Trust

**NOLLAIG SHONA DAOIBH**



**A HAPPY & SAFE  
CHRISTMAS TO  
ALL OF YOU**

**WE WISH YOU  
ALL THE BEST  
IN 2025**

# **Greetings from the Edmund Rice Schools Trust**

## **A Christmas Message to Our School Communities**

As the festive season approaches, I wish to extend my warmest greetings to each and every member of our network of 96 Edmund Rice schools in Ireland and our colleagues and friends across the world.

Christmas is a time of joy, reflection, and togetherness, and it serves as a reminder of the peace and goodwill that we strive to embody within our communities.

This special time of year offers us the opportunity to pause and appreciate the dedication and commitment in our schools to education and the development of young minds, which truly transforms lives and enriches our communities.

Also, we remember in our actions, our thoughts and our prayers, those around the world who are less fortunate and in need of our support. We remember all who are facing hardship, hunger, suffering and war. Let us extend the compassion that this season inspires, in whatever way we can.

Thank you for all your excellent contributions to your schools and communities throughout the year. In the spirit of Blessed Edmund Rice, let us continue to support one another, fostering a world built on compassion, generosity and justice.

May the peace and joy of Christmas fill your homes and hearts, and may the New Year bring hope, health, and happiness to you and your loved ones.

Warm regards,  
Gerry Bennett  
Chief Executive



## Midleton CBS

Festive spirits were high in school last Wednesday 11th Dec as students and staff enjoyed attending the CBS Christmas Market. There were cakes/treats/hot dogs and hot chocolates galore... even Santa & his elves turned up and helped on the day, meeting and greeting the students.

We have fundraised for our local SVP charity, and the funds will be presented next week. We are hoping to raise well over 1000 euros.

A huge thank you to all the local businesses in Midleton who kindly sponsored food and other items for the event. We truly appreciate their support and contributions. A special thank you must go to John Cremin in SuperValu Midleton, for sourcing ingredients for our very popular Hot Dog & Hot Chocolate stands, and to Jack & Shirley in Jack Cuthbert's Bakery for supplying specially made rolls for our Hot Dogs. Also, a big thanks to Tom Kelly in Market Green for his support, and to John Paul Bakery who made a special tray of delicious baked goods including churros, much to the delight of our students!! A huge thank you to David (Lidl Manager) for his generous supply of doughnuts and to Chabba (Aldi Manager) for his gluten free products.



Finally, thank you to all the staff and parents of Midleton CBS who helped us out, baked/bought goods for our Christmas Market and supported our fundraiser in all the various ways. Your amazing efforts are really appreciated. It would not have been possible without your help.

Happy Christmas to you all in the ERST network, and best wishes for 2025.

## Oatlands College

### Hope Foundation trip to India

Last year the Hope Foundation gave a presentation to our 4th and 5th year students about a charity trip to Kolkata in India. Nine students volunteered to take part and they visited India over the October midterm. We asked one of the volunteers to tell us about their experience.

The nine students all raised €2,500 each for the Hope foundation by bag packing, shaking buckets in Dundrum and outside a Taylor swift concert. We also did a sponsored walk, a bake sale, and non-uniform days in school.

The money that each of us raised along with the other 53 volunteer students from around Ireland, funded schools, crèches, rehabilitation homes as well as a hospital set up by the Hope foundation.

The Hope Foundation's projects are in the city of Kolkata in West Bengal. A third of the city's population live in slum communities and many children do not have adequate access to healthcare, education, or clean water. Many children spend the day working, rummaging through rubbish, and begging on the side of the road.



While we were in Kolkata we witnessed this poverty first hand. We spent time with the kids in the schools and crèches where we played games, sang songs and danced.

We learned of the inequalities that women and disabled people face even today. It's very common for young girls and kids with intellectual disabilities to be left on the side of the road and made to fend for themselves.

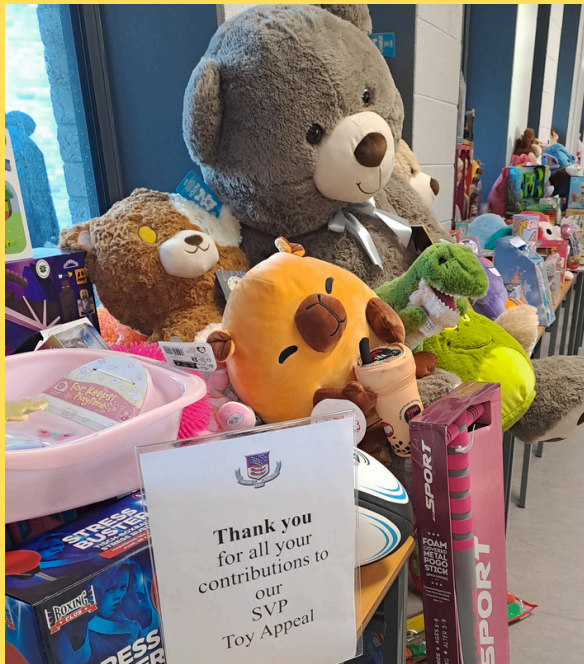
We visited cultural sites such as Hindu temples, the Victoria memorial palace and Mother Theresa's home.

The trip made us feel more grateful for all the things we take for granted. Even the less obvious ones such as our access to necessities like water and somewhere to go to the toilet but also an education, something of which many do not have access.

In conclusion I experienced a lot during the trip, and it taught me a lot about other cultures, how the world works outside the little bubble we all live in and how it's important for everyone to have equal opportunities in life no matter where you're born.



## Waterpark College



### SVP Toy appeal

Thanks to all the great work by the Foróige Club for making this Christmas the best ever at Waterpark College for children in need. The donations came in thick and fast and first year students got to visit our local Smyths store to personally pick toys that they think Santa would like to bring when he visits homes. The amount raised this year was E3,400. Well done to all involved and a big thanks to Mr. McLoughlin for rallying the troops right to the very end. At this time of year, the SVP receives many donations of toys for children.

Junior Locke, an SVP volunteer for 18 years and the manager of the Tralee SVP centre was interviewed by the Irish Independent recently and said “We normally try to make sure that every child is getting a new toy for Christmas. There’s a lot of work with our colleagues in our visitation side of the society. They get a list of names from a certain area, so all the visitation groups put in a list of toys required for families that they need, and we put these toys together for packaging and delivery.”

### Cara Food Bank Drive Christmas 2024

Gabhaimíd buíochas mór le na Caras who filled 3 trolleys and secured almost €200 in donations to buy even more.

They want to thank all who contributed. The food was collected by Waterford Food Bank on Monday 9th December. This is a Local Area Partnership Programme which distributes over 200 food parcels every week to individuals and families living in food poverty in Waterford.



## November Remembrance Service

In November we are encouraged to pray for those who have gone before us, our deceased family members like our grandparents, cousins, and friends. We remember with great love and affection our family members and friends who have died this year, as well as all our faithful departed. However, it does not end there because we are asked also to pray for those who may have no one to pray for them. In this way we are joined to others in the Christian family and reminded that we are a wide community united in our belief in Jesus and his Resurrection. Thanks to all our readers, musicians, singers from second year who made this a truly reflective time for all of us with Fr. Tom, our school chaplain in our Parish Church of St. John's.



## Soap Box 2024

Congratulations to Nylah Quinn, our First-Year student who qualified for the national final of this Public Speaking Competition which was run by the LGMA, Local Government Management Agency. This year the final was held in the Royal College of Physicians, Kildare Street on Tuesday 26th November.

The competition attracts speakers from all over the country and is open to speakers 16 and under, as well as 17 and over. Its origins were the humble empty crates used by members of the public to give speeches, often impromptu, to passers-by. Hyde Park's Speaker's Corner dates back to 1870 and in Dublin, many will be familiar with Speaker's Square in Temple Bar.

Nylah Quinn progressed to the final having won the regional final in the Dr Mary Strangman Large Room in City Hall. For her hard work, she won an iPad and a place in the National Final. Éabha McGrath won highly commended for her speech on the day also!





Our big Waterpark thanks goes to Breda O'Shea, Executive Librarian and her team for all they did for us on the day. Thanks also to our English teachers, Ms. Murphy, Ms. Daly and Ms. Cahill for mentoring, organising and supporting the students.

### Stand Up Awareness Week

It was a lovely week for students to participate in events and activities that ran during Stand-Up Awareness week. The support shown by students for the LGBT+ Community is inspiring. Bualadh bos go léir and thanks to Ms. Sweetman and Ms. O'Brien for running the week which was a national event run by Belong To. We all must take a stand against homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying.



### Gaeilge24

Glacann níos mó ná 300 scoileanna páirt i Gaeilge24. De bharr sin, bíonn 30,000 daltaí ag caint Gaeilge ar feadh an lá. Baineann siad an- sport as agus is taithí antabachtach é. Buíochas le Múinteoir Ní Chorcoráin leis an ullmhú agus an lá.



### Greenschools Training

Our Greenschools Training takes place every year in November to coincide with our local Waterford Council Litter Challenge which is sponsored for the last four years by Tom Murphy Car Sales. Students are introduced to Hi- viz and litter pickers. They work in teams with some picking rubbish, while others have bags and gloves.

The route for the competition is near the school and we have the lovely George's Quay as part of our clean-up. Thanks to Ella Ryan, our Environmental Awareness Officer from Waterford County Council for her help during the competition.



## Coláiste Mhichíl Sexton Street Limerick



### **JP McManus Scholarship Winners**

This term, the 2024 JP McManus Scholarship Award recipients along with Principal Denis O'Connor and Deputy Principal Mr Rob Williams attended a celebratory lunch in Adare with JP McManus, marking the 28th anniversary of the Scholarships, with over 200 Coláiste Mhichíl students having received a scholarship to date. Since 1997, each of the top eight Leaving Certificate students in a given year has received a scholarship from the McManus family to the value of €27,000. Congratulations to this year's recipients: Oran Hickey, Mahdi Mirzay, Mirwais Jan, Drilon Geci, Tashif Mahmood, Rushil Ramesh, Wiktor Kwietniewski, and MD Ibrahim Islam.

### **International Day Celebrations 2024**

This year's event saw students from over 40 countries host a stand, make posters, play music, wear national dress, and prepare and cook national dishes for all to sample. International Day gives Coláiste Mhichíl the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the heritage of our student body. A massive effort is put in by staff, students and their parents to make this celebration possible. The overall winner went to India. Event Coordinator, Mr Long adds 'International Day aims to celebrate and inform the school community about our different nationalities and cultures. It has become our most important celebration of diversity in Coláiste Mhichíl. This would not have been possible without the outstanding commitment and dedication shown by our staff, students, and the parents who provide and cook most of the national dishes on display. It's the one day of the year when no one brings lunch!'





## Parent Classes and Parent's Coffee Morning

This term, HSCLO Ms O'Connor hosted a coffee morning for first year parents. The coffee morning was a great success with a great turn out of parents. Ms O'Connor along with SNA Amy facilitated a makeup class for parents to learn about makeup application and different makeup techniques.

Thank you to all the parents who attended the coffee morning and makeup class.





## Award Winning Initiatives

Mr Doran, Mr Liddy, Mr Lynch and students Casey Emuze, Tristan Kiely, and Alex O'Mahony travelled to Dublin to attend the Tusla Child and Youth Participation Awards. They received an award for the 'Buddy Reading Programme' which the TYs ran with the CBS Primary school students last year. Congratulations to everyone involved.



## Charity Fundraisers

Well done to everyone who supported our Christmas Jumper fundraiser. We raised €400.00 for charity. Thank you to Ms Hennessy, Ms Breathnach, and the Student Council for all their hard work in organizing this fundraiser. Our school choir sang Christmas carols in the Crescent Shopping Centre this month to raise funds for the Irish Cancer Society. Well done to our wonderful choir, Ms Clune and Mr Clohessy.



## Portlaoise CBS

### EU Public Speaking

A huge congratulations to our future politician Harry McGree who performed with aplomb today in the national final of the EU Direct Public Speaking Competition. Harry spoke eloquently on the topic of 'A.I. is a threat to humanity' and had a warm rapport with the audience.

Having won an iPad for winning the regional final he went on to gain second place in the country today.

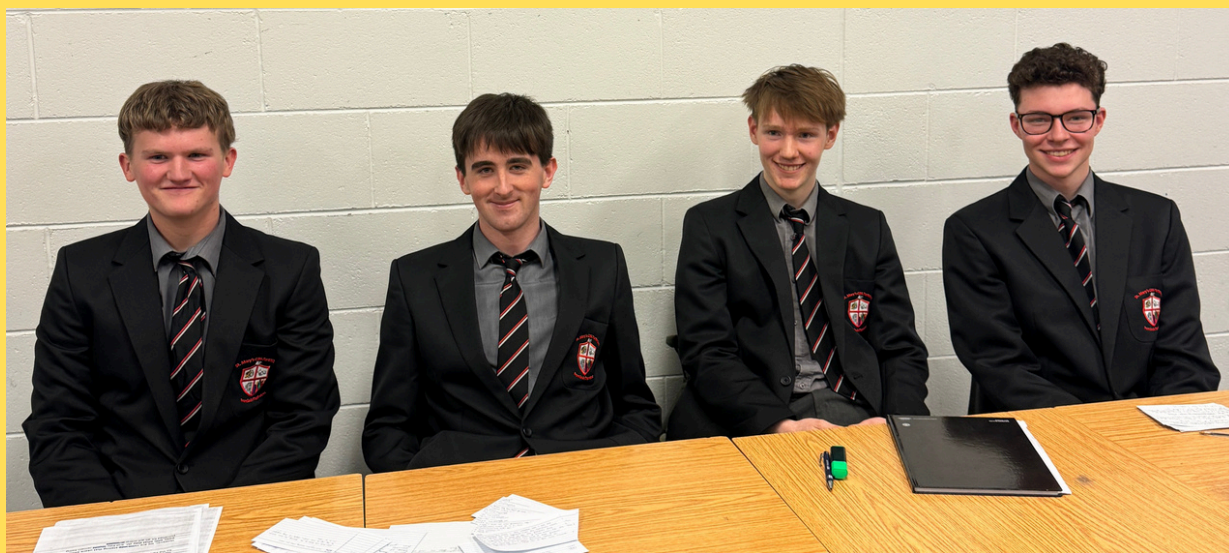


### U-19 Basketballers Reach All-Ireland Final

Congratulations to our U19's who have won the All-Ireland Basketball semi-final. The boys demonstrated incredible grit and tenacity, overpowering Rathmore with a 63-40 victory. From the first whistle, they battled for every point, showing relentless energy and determination on both ends of the court. Despite the pressure, they never backed down. Their sportsmanship stood out, as they respected both the game and their opponents. They now progress to the All-Ireland Final in January. We are so proud of you.







### **Back to back wins for St. Mary's CBS**

Up first were our 5th Year Debating team; Captain Andrew Coyne, Jack Heffernan, Joshua Corbett and Tom Delaney. The boys faced a strong Coláiste Íosagáin side but the judges unanimously decided that victory belonged to the CBS, as we opposed the motion “That this house believes that it is users, rather than platforms, that must take responsibility for the harmful effects of social media”.

Next were our seasoned 6th Year Debaters; Captain Adam Raji, Kyle John, David Finnegan and Jack Murrell who were up against an experienced Portlaoise College side. The boys presented compelling arguments as they vehemently opposed the motion “That this house believes that AI will replace teachers”. St. Mary’s CBS were unanimous victors once more.

Both teams were complimented on their poise, humour, intellect and convincing arguments. They now progress to the next round in January. Well done all, you represented our school fantastically in what was a very enjoyable evening.



## CBC Cork

### Artificial Intelligence and Education: A Transformative Lunch and Learn

On 5th October 2024, Edmond Hussey, Assistant Principal 1 and Google Trainer, delivered an exceptional seminar on Artificial Intelligence and Digital Tools at Christian Brothers College, Cork. The event, part of the Lunch and Learn series, was met with keen enthusiasm and provided educators with crucial insights into emerging educational technologies.

The seminar explored innovative ways to integrate AI and digital tools into classroom practice, featuring presentations from leading experts in educational technology. Attendees gained valuable knowledge about Universal Design for Learning (UDL), formative assessment strategies, and cutting-edge AI digital learning tools.

Participants learned about practical applications of AI in education, with demonstrations of tools like Edpuzzle, Canva, and Texthelp. The event highlighted how emerging technologies can create more inclusive, engaging, and effective learning environments.

Key speakers shared their expertise, providing educators with a comprehensive overview of how AI and digital tools are transforming educational practices. The seminar was particularly notable for its practical approach, offering teachers concrete strategies to enhance their teaching methodologies.

Edmond Hussey, in his role as Regional Representative for Region 4 of the Education Support Centres of Ireland, successfully organised an event that promises to be a milestone in educational technology integration.

The overwhelming positive response from participants underscores the growing importance of technological literacy in modern education, marking this Lunch and Learn as a significant step forward in understanding and implementing AI in educational settings.







### **Learning and Teaching: Insights and Innovation at CBC**

The Learning and Teaching Team at CBS recently hosted two exceptional professional development presentations that provided valuable insights for staff. Organised by Edmond Hussey, the school's Self-Evaluation Coordinator, these sessions offered meaningful opportunities for professional growth.

### **Whole School Evaluation Insights with Hugh Coughlan**

On 5th December, staff heard from Mr. Hugh Coughlan, Deputy Principal of McEgan College, Macroom. With an impressive academic background that includes an MA in French, postgraduate diplomas in Educational Leadership, Education Law, and Human Resource Management, and an M.Ed. from University College Cork, Mr. Coughlan delivered a compelling presentation.

The session explored the WSE-MLL (Whole School Evaluation – Management, Leadership, and Learning) process, providing staff with critical insights into this comprehensive school inspection model. Drawing from his school's recent experience, Mr. Coughlan shared valuable perspectives on the impacts of such evaluations on classroom teaching and learning practices.



### **Universal Design for Learning: A Path to Inclusive Education**

On 14th November, the college welcomed Bláthnaid Breslin, a PhD candidate and UDL specialist, who presented on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in post-primary classrooms. As a University Teacher in the School of Education and course director for BA Education with Languages, Bláthnaid brought extensive expertise to the topic.

Her presentation provided an in-depth exploration of UDL fundamentals, emphasising the importance of creating inclusive learning environments that accommodate diverse student needs. Leveraging her experience in educational leadership, research methodologies, and teacher professionalism, Bláthnaid offered practical strategies for implementing UDL principles.

These presentations demonstrated CBC's ongoing commitment to continuous professional development, innovative teaching practices, and creating responsive, inclusive learning environments. By engaging with leading educational experts, the school continues to support staff and student growth.

The Learning and Teaching Committee remains dedicated to driving educational excellence, ensuring that CBC stays at the forefront of innovative educational approaches.

Photo: Edmond Hussey, Donal O Mahony (Deputy Principal), Bláthnaid Breslin, Eamonn Moynihan, David Lordon (Principal).





## **A Journey of Climate Awareness: PEACE Project in Copenhagen**

In the heart of Denmark's vibrant capital, two Edmund Rice educators recently embarked on a transformative journey that promises to reshape how students understand climate action and European citizenship.

Edmond Hussey and Martin Boyle participated in the PEACE (Pan-European Awareness in Collaborative Education) Erasmus+ project, a groundbreaking initiative that brings together passionate educators from Denmark, Belgium, and Ireland.

### **Beyond Borders: A Collaborative Vision**

The PEACE project, spanning 36 months from 2024 to 2026, represents more than just an educational exchange. It's a powerful collaboration between key institutions: DEO in Denmark, Europahuis Ryckvelde in Belgium, and University College Cork's Hub in Active European Citizenship. Their shared mission is both ambitious and vital: to elevate awareness about climate change and EU policies among young learners.

### **An Innovative Approach to Learning**

The project's most exciting innovation is a semi-digital escape room experience designed to demystify the complexities of climate change and EU decision-making. During their visit, the team had the opportunity to test this cutting-edge teaching tool at Birkerød Gymnasium, working alongside Mr. Henrik Nilsson and his economics students.

This immersive learning approach does more than simply inform—it engages. By transforming complex policy discussions into interactive experiences, the PEACE project makes European issues accessible and compelling for young people.

### **The PEACE project aims to:**

- Increase awareness of European issues and the EU's role in climate action
- Make educational resources on EU matters more accessible
- Empower students to engage with democratic processes
- Encourage consideration of diverse national perspectives on the climate crisis

### **Looking Forward**

As climate change continues to be one of the most pressing global challenges, initiatives like PEACE offer hope. By empowering young people with knowledge, critical thinking skills, and a European perspective, the project is nurturing the next generation of informed, active citizens.



## **CBC: Stand Up Awareness Week**

This year, CBC celebrated Stand Up Awareness Week from Nov. 4-8 through the theme of community. The annual initiative is aimed at fostering inclusivity, respect, and awareness within the school community, particularly in support of LGBTQ+ students. Communities are diverse spaces and include people from all different walks of life. Young people may be members of a sports community or within a youth group or musical community. They may also be members of a religious or faith-based community, or an ethnic or minority language community, or within a group of people with disabilities. The initiative invites students, teachers, and school staff to engage in activities and discussions that reinforce the importance of standing together as a community. By embracing our differences and supporting one another, we create spaces where everyone feels valued, safe, and part of the school community. Activities during the week included an artwork competition where students looked at how we greet each other with fantastic entries, including sign language now displayed around the school building. Beyond its immediate impact, Stand Up Awareness Week reinforces the idea that schools play a crucial role in shaping attitudes and promoting a culture of inclusion.

## **Wellbeing Week**

Wellbeing is described as the state of being comfortable, healthy, resilient and happy. It is present when a person realises their potential, is resilient in dealing with the normal stresses of their life, takes care of their physical wellbeing and has a sense of purpose, connection and belonging to a wider community. It is a fluid way of being and needs nurturing throughout life. Our priority is the wellbeing of our students as espoused in our mission statement: “While firmly rooted in its Christian traditions, the CBC community strives to allow each individual student to grow and develop, and to ensure that the education it gives is suited to each generation of boys”

Christian Brothers College is committed to promoting the emotional and social wellbeing of all, creating a respectful atmosphere between all individuals: management, teachers, staff members, students, parents and visitors. All relationships in our school are built on the central tenet of respect, promoting a caring and committed college community where everyone is valued as unique. Staff at the college aspire to develop the whole person: spiritual, emotional, intellectual, social, cultural and physical.

In prioritising the wellbeing of all members of the CBC community, we were delighted to launch Wellbeing Week 2024, ‘Be Aware’, from Tuesday 15th to Monday 21st October.

Each day commenced with a brief ‘thought for the day’ reflection, delivered by College Principal, Mr. David Lordon, Chairperson of the Board of Management Dr Larrie Martin, Wellbeing Committee member, Catherine Welch and student Wellbeing Ambassador Rory Griffin.

# Wellbeing Week 2024



## Be Aware

### Tuesday 15th - Monday 21st October 2024

**Tue.  
15th**

**Dr Maureen Griffin**  
(2nd and 3rd years)  
**Robert and Eoin Downey**  
(1st years)

#### Dr Maureen Griffin

Dr Maureen Griffin is a forensic psychologist and founder of MGMTS Training. Since its foundation in 2010, Dr Griffin has visited over 750 primary and secondary schools across Ireland, speaking with students, staff, BOM members and parents regarding issues around social media, cyber-bullying and internet and mobile phone safety. She has also worked with organisations responsible for the care and protection of children; provided training in relation to online offending behaviours for those working with offenders and delivered lectures on Forensic Psychology and Criminal Behaviour Courses in Universities across Ireland. Dr Griffin has delivered lectures in the areas of abnormal psychology, mental health and crime, sexual offenders, online internet solicitation and risk assessment on Forensic Psychology, Criminal Behaviour & Criminalistics courses in Universities across Ireland. Maureen has also delivered guest lectures on Detective and Sergeant Training Courses in An Garda Síochána and on National and International Military Police Courses with the Irish Defence Forces. Dr Griffin has also presented at many Youth Mental Health Conferences across Ireland.



#### Robert and Eoin Downey

Robert Downey is a Cork senior hurler who plays for Glen Rovers. He is a past pupil of CBC. He was called onto the school's Harty team in 2015 and remained on the panel for three years. He was part of UCC's Fitzgibbon Cup winning team in 2020 when they defeated the Institute of Technology, Carlow. In 2017 he won the Cork Premier 1 MHC with his club Glen Rovers. In the same year he won a Munster MHC medal with Cork. Robert has since played on the U20 Cork team and is currently a member of the Cork Senior Hurling team. Robert has been nominated for an All-Star award this year.

Eoin Downey's pathway to becoming a Cork Senior hurler began from the first moment he picked up a hurley. His unswerving dedication to the game was evident during his time in CBC where he played as part of the Harty Cup team. He played on the Cork minor and U20 teams before debuting with Cork senior team and played fullback in the All-Ireland final earlier this year. Not only has Eoin been nominated for an All-Star award this year but he has also been nominated for Young Hurler of the Year 2024.



**Wed.  
16th**

**Richie Power**  
(6th years)  
**Conor O'Keeffe**  
(2nd years)

#### Richie Power



Born in Carrickschook, County Kilkenny, Richie Power first played competitive hurling during his schooling at St Kieran's College with whom he won two All-Ireland Colleges' Senior Hurling Championships. He arrived on the inter-county scene at the age of fifteen when he first linked up with the Kilkenny minor team, winning two All-Ireland Minor Championships, one as captain, and later joining the Under-21 side with whom he won two All-Ireland Championships. While still playing for the Under-21 team, Richie made his senior debut during the 2005 league and immediately became a regular member of the starting fifteen. Between the years of 2005 and his retirement from inter-county hurling in 2016, Richie won eight All-Ireland medals, five Leinster medals, three National League medals and two All-Stars awards. He has been an All-Ireland runner-up on one occasion. While enjoying such success on the field of play, Richie was struggling with his addiction to gambling and has spoken candidly about this enormous challenge in his life. It was only when he reached a particularly low time in his life that he was able to seek help from his family, friends, and addiction counselling services. His biography 'Power: A Family Memoir' recounts in great detail, the success and struggles he encountered in his life.

#### Conor O'Keeffe



Former pupil of CBC, Conor O'Keeffe, is an Ultra-Marathon runner and Mental Health Advocate. He struggled with mental health challenges throughout his teens and twenties, forever feeling like he was on a "roller coaster of ups and downs". From climbing Kilimanjaro as a teen, to flying to Thailand to chase a dream of becoming a Muay Thai champion, he constantly sought contentment within himself and his mind. Conor stumbled upon ultra-running by chance. In 2019, while training for a 200-mile ultra-marathon, he began to unearth a sense of self and inner stability. Throughout his journey in ultra-endurance, from winning the Enduroman 200-mile Ultra-Marathon or running a loop of his patio for 24 hours straight, he always sought to understand more about himself as a person. Conor has been spreading this mental health message both nationally and internationally and was recently part of RTE's documentary called 'I'm Fine' which focused on destigmatising issues around a range of mental health issues across Ireland. He has used setbacks as an opportunity to explore other areas of life and spread a message about adapting to the ever-changing environment, simplifying our thought patterns, and controlling what we can control.

**Thur.  
17th**

**Every Move Counts**

On Thursday the 17th of October students will be off-site due to Department of Education Staff training, but the CBC Community will be invited to come together in an effort to reduce our Sedentary Time and replace it with some form of Physical Activity. Sedentary activity includes most desk-based work, driving a car, watching Netflix, scrolling through TikTok or other screen time activities. Physical activity helps your physical and mental health. It releases chemicals in your brain, endorphins, which have a positive effect on your mood and your body. The goal of the CBC Every Move Counts Day is to replace this sedentary time, where possible, with activity of any intensity and essentially moving more every day. The Challenge: Every member of the CBC Community is challenged with being physically active on Thursday 17th October. EVERY MOVE COUNTS so no matter if you are walking your dog, training with your club or exercising for fun by yourself or with friends, we need you to get involved. Take a picture of whatever activity you participate in and send it to [everymove@cbcork.ie](mailto:everymove@cbcork.ie). Let's reduce sedentary time together! Prizes will be awarded to selected entries from each year group.



**Fri.  
18th**

**Prof. Adrian Murphy**  
(5th years)  
**Commissioner Michael McGrath**  
(6th years)

#### Professor Adrian Murphy

Professor Adrian Murphy graduated in Medicine from University College Cork (UCC), in 2003. Prof. Murphy initially completed the Royal College of Surgeons basic surgical training scheme and subsequently undertook higher specialist training in emergency medicine, at various teaching hospitals throughout Ireland. He was conferred with a PhD from University College Dublin in 2015 for research focused on pre-hospital acute pain management in children. Professor Murphy has completed sub-specialist training in pre-hospital care through a Fellowship in Prehospital Emergency Medicine with London's Air Ambulance, at the Royal London Hospital, England. Professor Murphy received a Defence Forces commission in 2003 and currently serves as the Senior Medical Officer to the Army Ranger Wing, the special operations unit within the Irish Defence Forces. Prof. Murphy is a Consultant in Emergency Medicine at Cork University Hospital, Clinical Lead for Organ Donation in the South/South-West Hospital Group, and Regional Medical Advisor (South) to the National Ambulance Service. He is also a Clinical Professor in Emergency Medicine at UCC. He is the Program Director for Paramedical Studies in UCC, as the academic partner to our National Ambulance Service. Professor Murphy is also the Program Director for Security and Defence Medicine in UCC.



#### Commissioner Michael McGrath



Commissioner Michael McGrath is a Fianna Fáil politician and EU Commissioner-designate for Democracy, Justice and Rule of Law. He grew up in the harbour town of Passage West in Cork. Before entering national politics Commissioner McGrath served in local government as a member of Passage West Town Council and Cork County Council. He was elected to Dáil Éireann in 2007 and was re-elected in every election since. He served as Minister for Finance from 2022 to 2024 and as Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform from 2020 to 2022. During this time as Finance Minister Commissioner McGrath represented Ireland at the Eurogroup and ECOFIN meetings. He met regularly with EU Commissioners and the ECB President. He also acted as a governor on a range of international bodies on behalf of Ireland including the IMF, the World Bank and the European Investment Bank. Commissioner McGrath was central in establishing two new long-term funds, the Future Ireland Fund, and the Infrastructure, Climate and Nature Fund.

**Mon.  
21st**

**Senator Jerry Buttimer**  
(3rd years)  
**Jonny Holland**  
(5th years)  
**SERVE**  
(4th years)

#### Senator Jerry Buttimer

Senator Buttimer is a member of the 26th Seanad. In December 2022 he was appointed as the Cathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann and previously served as Leader of the 25th Seanad. He was elected to Dáil Éireann in February 2011, representing the constituency of Cork South Central. He was previously appointed as Chairperson of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health and Children and first served as a Senator, having been elected in 2007. Sen. Buttimer was a member of Cork City Council from 2004 to 2007. He is also the founder of Fine Gael LGBT and Party Spokesperson on Transport. Under Sen. Buttimer's stewardship, the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health and Children held a series of meetings examining the misuse of alcohol and other drugs. This process culminated in the publication of a report which detailed a series of recommendations for tackling these complex issues. He has also led the Committee's consultation process on the Children First Bill, which puts in place a statutory framework to protect children and combat child abuse and neglect. Sen. Buttimer was closely involved in the Protection of Life During Pregnancy Act Bill which led to the Citizens Assembly meetings in 2017-2018.



#### SERVE



SERVE defines itself as an organisation centred around young people. It concentrates on supporting opportunity for marginalised young people and addressing barriers that prevent them from thriving. Despite the many impediments they face, SERVE believes in the limitless potential of young people and chooses to focus on them as the key to a brighter future for their communities and our world. SERVE values the equal dignity and worth of all people, rooted in our shared humanity. SERVE develops meaningful connection and engagement with young people in Ireland, so that they are better informed and more actively engaged on social justice, human rights and global development issues. This is done through the Global Citizenship journey of education and action, whereby young people in Ireland travel to their partner countries to contribute to the ongoing work. In the academic year 2023 - 2024, 14 CBC students and 3 members of Staff participated in SERVE's Zambia Immersion Project. All concerned worked tirelessly with fundraising projects during the year and in June 2024 had the opportunity to visit and work with various schools in Zambia.

#### Jonny Holland

Earlier this year, Christian Brothers College announced the appointment of Jonny Holland as the school's Rugby Elite Performance Director. Jonny joins the Rugby management team in CBC with overall responsibility for the College's Rugby development and coaching programme, aligning with the school's overall mission and values. A key area of responsibility for Jonny is the nurturing of talent within the coaching group, designing and implementing programs that allow our players to reach their full potential as well as ensuring that our programme engages all pupils in the Christian Brothers Rugby experience. A former Munster fly-half, Jonny moved into coaching and management in recent years with Cork Constitution RFC, and most recently led the club as Head Coach to All-Ireland 1A title success. He brings considerable experience to his role through involvement in elite sport as a performance nutritionist.





## Ardsoil na Mara Tramore

### Student Council News

Our Student Council had a very productive term with a training session on student leadership from Leo Hogan from the ERST office. They developed their leadership skills through role play and discussion around what they would like to achieve this coming year. The students have been involved in many initiatives so far this term including their Christmas Food Drive for Helping Hands Waterford.



The student Council is running a food and Supplies drive for Helping Hands Waterford. The school community have been asked to bring in non-perishables to place in their trolley and the Student Council will deliver them to Helping hands Waterford. Such a deserving cause at this time of the year.





## Peace and Justice Belfast Immersion Trip

Our Edmund Rice Ambassadors and members of the Peace and Justice Group along with their teachers, Ms. Hally and Mr. Mc Laughlin visited Belfast last week and took part in a Homeless Advocacy Programme as part of Homeless Awareness Week. Here is an account of their trip from our Ambassadors.

Our Belfast Immersion Homeless Advocacy Programme took place in December. Our trip involved four of our Peace and Justice Ambassadors and our two teachers Ms. Hally and Mr. McLaughlin, learning about the problems of Homelessness in Belfast. On the first day, we attended an All Party Group on Youth Participation at the Parliament Building, Stormont. This was an insightful session and a great start to our immersion project for Homeless Awareness Week.

The following day we volunteered for breakfast service at The People's Kitchen. This entailed serving food and welcoming people experiencing poverty. This was a very enlightening experience as we got a chance to meet people who are sleeping rough on the street, living in temporary accommodation in today's world. Later, that day we reconvened at 5pm, linking with other Edmund Rice schools from Belfast, Manchester and Limerick. We then travelled to Edmund Rice College where we got the chance to present on our recent initiatives - The Sleep Out for Focus Ireland and The ERST Water for Life Campaign - our two leading campaigns of Advocacy for Homelessness. This was a great opportunity as we got to raise awareness around these worthy projects. Finally after a busy day we enjoyed a table quiz and reflection at Rosemount House Hostel.



There we had an opportunity to get insight into the life of recovering addicts and alcoholics who have experienced homelessness and share our initiatives with other Edmund Rice Schools. This trip was an extremely eye opening and humbling opportunity for us and our teachers involved.

We plan on bringing this learning experience back to our Peace and Justice Advocacy Group at school.





### Water For Life Campaign

Our Water For Life non uniform day took place on November 27th. This was a very special day in which our Peace and Justice Group highlighted the ongoing plight of Children in the Middle East and the Water Crisis there. The group prepared and peer taught all year groups across the school and our campaign culminated in our Wear Blue Day. We raised a massive 2,000 Euro which will be given to UNICEF which is working on the ground in the Middle East bringing relief and supplies to those who need it most.



### World Wise Global Schools Conference

Our involvement with WWGS continues with our attendance at their annual Student Conference in the De La Salle Retreat Centre in Durrow. One of our senior students, Niamh Purcell opened and closed the Conference where she spoke about our involvement in working for a more just world. The teachers also took part in a workshop on how to integrate Global Citizenship Education into teaching and learning.





### Edmund Rice Development Advent Campaign

We are also taking part in the Edmund Rice Development Advent Campaign where we are working to raise money for the safe future of children in Bolivia. The name of the Edmund Rice Centre we are supporting is the Centro Hermano Manolo which is a drop in centre that provides basic services for at-risk youth in Cochabamba Bolivia.

### ASNMs ADVENT APPEAL

Don't forget to bring **1 euro** to school next week to give to your CLASS PRESIDENT. This will be collected during the week starting **9th of Dec.**

- 1ST AND 2ND YEARS please bring 1 euro to your CSPE class.
- Everyone else please bring 1 euro to your SPHE class.

This year, 80 working children in Cochabamba, Bolivia are being empowered to stay in school through the Centro Hermano Manolo and Edmund Rice Development. Give your Gift of Love and help them by donating 1 euro this Advent



## Coláiste Íosagáin, Baile an Bhóthair



Tá an Nollaig tagtha agus is cinnte go raibh luachanna na Nollag; cairdeas, cineáltas, catharnacht, clann agus Críostaíocht, le brath i gColáiste Íosagáin le dhá mhí anuas.

Seo duit, achoimre ar imeachtaí na scoile ó mhí Dheireadh Fómhair ar aghaidh:



### Lá Domhanda na Meabharshláinte

Labhair na captaein scoile, Clara Ní Riada agus Emily Ní Chearúil, agus na cinnirí eile le linn na seachtaine ag na tionóil agus d'eagraigh siad imeachtaí do na daltaí cosúil le ceardlann ealaíne agus tráth na gceist, bunaithe ar fholláine a spreagadh i measc na ndaltaí. Chabhraigh Bliain 4 le himeachtaí na seachtaine agus bhí an-rath ar fad orthu.

### Crannchur na Nollag ar son SVP

Ó mhí na Samhna ar aghaidh, tá baill 3 Néifinn théis a bheith gnóthach, ag eagrú crannchuir le hairgead a thiomsú ar son an SVP. Tá nasc ag Coláiste Íosagáin le SVP agus is ar son na catharnachta sin go bhfuilimid ag tiomsú le blianta fada anois. Tá duaiseanna iontacha bailithe ag an rang idir dearbháin pictiúrlainne, dearbháin gruagaire, ciseáin duaiseanna, dearbháin bialainne agus neart eile. Beidh tarraingt an chrannchuir ag titim amach sa tseachtain deireanach scoile.







## Cuairt ar an bpictiúrlann le Bliain 6 – Small Things Like These

Bhí maidin chultúrtha go maith ag Bliain 6 ag tús mhí na Samhna nuair a thug siad agus daltaí Choláiste Eoin cuairt ar phictiúrlann Dhún Droma le breathnú ar an scannán tochtmhar nua, Small Things Like These. Léiriú is ea é an scannán seo ar shaol nach bhfuil imithe uainn rófhada agus scéal na fulaingthe sna neachtlanna Mhaigdiléana mar chroílár na scéalaíochta ann. Is cuid lárnach de chúrsa na hArdteiste Bhéarla an t-úrscéal ar a bhfuil an scannán seo bunaithe, Small Things Like These, scríofa ag Claire Keegan.

## Cuairt ar an Mosc

Thug daltaí Bhliain 3 cuairt ar Mhosc Chluain Sceach le déanaí le foghlaim faoi chultúr agus reiligiún Ioslam. D'fhoghlaim siad téarmaíocht nua, d'éist siad le cainteanna faoi stair an Mhosc agus d'ith siad béile i dteannta phobail an ionaid. Lá thar a bheith suimiúil a bhí ann dóibh.



## An Oíche Threoirghairme

Bhain cailíní agus buachaillí Ardteiste Íosagáin agus Eoin an-sult as an Oíche Threoirghairme a bhí ar siúl ar láthair na scoileanna ar 24 Deireadh Fómhair. Bhí deis ag na daltaí freastal ar chainteanna mar gheall ar ghairmeacha a bhfuil suim acu iontu.



Gabhaimid buíochas leis na haíonna a tháinig chun cainte leo ar an oíche, iarscoláirí ina measc, le Comhchoiste na dTuismitheoirí agus leis na treoirchomhairleoirí a rinne an oíche a eagrú.

## Erasmus+ agus Malartú le daltaí Gearmánacha

Mar chuid den togra Erasmus+, tá malartú á dhéanamh ag grúpa cailíní Idirbhliana Íosagáin le grúpa scoláirí ón nGearmáin. Tháinig na cuairteoirí Gearmánacha go hÉirinn ar dtús agus cuireadh fáilte mhór rompu i mí Mheán Fómhair. Tháinig siad ó scoil darb ainm Mädchengymnasium Jülich (MGJ), meánscoil cailíní in Jülich in Iarthar na Gearmáine. Rinne siad ceardlanna éagsúla in éineacht le cailíní Choláiste Íosagáin agus cuid mhaith de na ranganna bunaithe ar fholláine agus ar fhoghlaím faoin gcultúr Éireannach. Rinne siad ióga, ceardlann ar fhéinchúram, agus d'fhoghlaím siad mar gheall ar stair Átha Cliath agus Éirí Amach na Cásca. Chuir daltaí ceolmhara seisiún traidisiúnta ar siúl dóibh freisin.

Bhí deis ag daltaí Choláiste Íosagáin dul go dtí an Ghearmáin i mí Dheireadh Fómhair freisin, in éineacht le hIníon Uí Raghallaigh. D'fhreastail na daltaí ar ranganna sa scoil MGJ agus fuair siad taithí ar an saol scoile sa Ghearmáin. Rinne siad cúrsa ETIM (STEM), ag codú, ag fáil taithí ar phriontáil 3T agus ag obair ar na céimeanna le córas uisciúcháin d'igitigh a thógáil. Mar aon leis seo, thug siad cuairt ar Aachen agus chonaic siad an ardeaglais mhór ann ina raibh suíochán Charlemagne. D'fhoghlaím siad faoi na Giúdaigh a raibh cónaí orthu in Aachen agus d'fhoghlaím siad faoi chinedhíothú na nGiúdach sa chathair. D'éirigh go hiontach leo agus chuir an scoil Ghearmánach agus na teaghlaigh lenar fhan siad fáilte mhór rompu.



## Seachtain Chuile Dhuine

D'eagraigh an choiste folláine (na captaein agus cinnirí scoile) roinnt imeachtaí do na daltaí le linn na seachtaine seo. Céiliúradh ar achan duine sa scoil a bhí ann agus cuireadh béim ar chairdeas agus meas, ag aithint na héagsúlachtaí atá ann eadrainn ar fad. An sprioc leis an seachtain ná Coláiste Íosagáin a chur chun cinn mar phobal scoile cineálta a chuireann fáilte chroíúil roimh gach duine agus go háirithe na mionlaigh in ár sochaí.



Léiríodh go bhfuil fáilte roimh chuille dhuine ar phóstaeir a rinneadh le linn na seachtaine. Rinneadh cur i láthair ag an tionól scoile faoi dhaoine mór le rá sa spóirt a tháinig trí dhúshláin agus atá ráthúil in aithneoinn a gcuid deacrachtaí. Tugadh eolas ar théarmaíocht a úsáidtear do dhaoine ón bpobal LADT+, agus rinneadh ceiliúradh ar dhaoine le cúlra eachtrannach le malartú cístí ag am lóin. Rinneadh tráth na gceist le heolas faoi chultúir éagsúla le roinnt ranganna freisin. Ag deireadh na seachtaine bhí “Lá na Stocaí Corra” ann le críoch a chur leis an seachtain.



### **Díospóireacht as Gaeilge**

Bhí an-rath ar ár ndaltaí agus iad ag tabhairt faoi dhíospóireacht as Gaeilge i gComórtas Náisiúnta Gael Linn. Tá dhá bhabhta buaite ag foireann Choláiste Íosagáin agus iad ag druidim i dtreo na craoibhe náisiúnta anois.



### **Ag tiomsú airgid ar son Childline**

Bhailigh lucht na hIdirbhliana le chéile i lár na cathrach le hairgead a thiomsú ar son na catharnachta, Childline ag tús na míosa seo. An-éispearas ar a fad a bhí ann agus cuid mhaith airgid bailithe acu.



## Coláiste Éamann Rís Cork

### Christmas Food Appeal

Students from Éamann Rís and members of the ERST committee came together in a remarkable display of solidarity to support our food appeal. Volunteering their time and energy, they worked tirelessly at Tesco Supermarket, engaging with shoppers to raise funds and collect essential food items. Their commitment to helping those in need reflects the values of compassion and community that are at the heart of our mission. Through their collective efforts, they are making a tangible difference, ensuring that those who require support during this time have access to a community that is working to scaffold all our families.







## International Student Team Building

Our team-building excursion with international students was an unforgettable experience that beautifully showcased the essence of Irish culture. We kicked off our day with a fascinating visit to the Clonakilty Black pudding Factory, where we learned about the traditional methods of crafting this iconic delicacy, followed by a delightful tasting of a hearty Irish breakfast that left everyone savouring the rich flavours.



Eager for more adventure, we journeyed along the scenic coastal route to Kinsale, mesmerised by the stunning views of the rugged coastline and shimmering sea. After indulging in mouthwatering fish and chips for lunch, we embarked on a refreshing hike to Charles Fort, where we soaked in the breathtaking vistas and rich history of this impressive structure. The day not only strengthened our bonds but also allowed us to experience the warmth and hospitality of Ireland together.





### MEP Billy Kelleher Visits Our School

We were delighted to welcome MEP Billy Kelleher to our school, where he gave an engaging talk on the European Union (EU). He explained his role in the EU and how it impacts Ireland's future, emphasising the benefits of EU membership in areas like trade and education.

The visit was both enjoyable and educational, leaving students with a greater understanding of the EU and its role in Ireland's future.



## **November Remembrance Service**

November is often referred to as the month to remember. It provides us with an opportunity to think about loved ones who have passed away. This November our school community came together to remember those that we have lost. A school prayer service was held with all current members of our school taking time to remember those who are no longer with us.

A school mass was also held for our wider school community which featured former students and staff members. The school choir and the school folk band played during both services and received widespread compliments from those who attended.

All who attended were asked to write the name of a loved one on a piece of paper which was then collected, blessed and placed on the altar during our services. November provides us all with an opportunity to reflect upon and remember loved ones who have passed away and to celebrate the Catholic ethos upon which our school is built.



## **Ukrainian event in Coláiste Éamann Rís**

At our school, we had a special event organised by our Ukrainian teacher, Anzhela, which brought everyone together in a celebration of culture and community. Students prepared and shared a variety of traditional Ukrainian dishes, while giving bilingual presentations that showcased the richness of their heritage. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, with a lovely sense of connection. Our mothers also added to the spirit of the event by singing beautiful Ukrainian songs, creating a nostalgic and joyful ambiance. It was a heartwarming gathering that fostered peer support and strengthened the bonds within our school community in the tradition of the Edmund Rice School Trust.

дякую Anzhela.





## **Coláiste Éamann Rís Take on The Bushtucker Trial**

6th year students took on their teachers in a CÉR spin-off of the popular TV series I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here! Over the course of three weeks various food related challenges were held in which participants ate everything from fish eyeballs to cow tongue. Held during lunch times and hosted by principal Mr. Wolfe, students from 1st to 6th year cheered on the contestants in a battle to the end.



The bushtucker trials culminated in a challenge that was not for the faint of heart - lying down next to snakes and lizards! Students and staff alike were in awe of our brave participants and everyone enjoyed getting the chance to watch the action and later, catch the highlights again on our new school TikTok page.



## **Reindeer Park**

Our annual Christmas Fair, Reindeer Park, took place on the 12th of December in our school hall. Student-made log reindeer decorations were a massive success and looked wonderfully festive - the perfect Christmas gift.

Other stalls sold handcrafted items ranging from tree ornaments to knitted accessories. A special visit from Santa topped off a great evening and he was even spotted having some fun on the bouncy castle!



## Christmas Feast

With exams fast approaching, Coláiste Éamann Rís held its traditional Christmas feast on Thursday 12th of December. The school first attended a prayer service in St. Finbarr's South Church during which students enacted the nativity. Following this was a surprise performance by staff who belted out a series of Christmas songs that had students clapping along. The day ended with all students receiving a full Christmas dinner, refreshments and dessert which they ate together. Festive spirits were high and a raffle was held by the Student Council, who helped in the running of the event and clean-up after. When students had had their fill it was time for staff to join in on the fun and enjoy the food.





### **Giving Back to the Community: Christmas Cooking for Penny Dinners**

Our fantastic TY volunteers cooked and donated a Christmas feast to Cork Penny Dinners to aid the homeless of Cork this winter. Assisted by their Home Economics teachers and volunteers on staff, many hands made light work and they were able to peel, chop, baste and roast a multitude of Christmas dinners with all the trimmings. A special thanks to O’Cruaiaoi Butchers for donating turkey and ham for the event.









## **CBS New Ross**

**175th Anniversary Celebrations Saturday 5th October 2024**

**The last six principals in CBS New Ross meet.**



**Sarah Rice principal since September 2024, Pat Rossiter principal from September 2009 – August 2024, John Michael Porter acting principal from September 1996 – January 1997, Brother Pat Bowler principal from September 1984 – August 1987, Billy O'Shea principal from September 1984 – August 1999, Ray Murray principal from September 1999 – August 2009**

### **CBS CELEBRATES 175 YEARS IN STYLE**

It has been a very busy October in CBS Secondary New Ross as the school community celebrated 175 years of Christian Brother education in New Ross. Months of preparation led by a committee chaired by Jim Walsh delivered a very exciting and inclusive set of events and activities which took place at the end of September and the first week of October.

The aim of the celebrations was to remember all the great achievements of the school over this period and to include all of the education partners in the events.

The Christian Brothers arrived in New Ross in September 1849 and it was fitting to open the celebrations with a mass celebrated by Bishop Ger Nash in St. Mary's and Michael's Parish Church. The school choir was led by Josephine Oakley. Readings and prayers and reflections were thoughtfully chosen by Roseanne Sinnott. All the stakeholders in the school, including parents and the Board of Management and extended family members were in attendance. Bishop Nash visited the school afterwards.



Later that evening the school doors were opened to all friends of the school, particularly former students and teachers. This Open Evening provided a welcome opportunity for people to walk down the familiar corridor of the main building and venture through the wonderful new buildings.

A photographic Exhibition was compiled by Margaret Rowe and Susan Sinnott. Photographs from the 1920s to 2024 were on display as well as many awards and roll books. These photographs transferred to the Gala Dinner in the Brandon House Hotel.

Mr. Barry Fitzpatrick, Deputy Principal, spoke to the assembled visitors and outlined some of the reasons why CBS Secondary New Ross is so special. Musical performances followed by the Head of School Jesse McGrath and his class mates Covenant, Abbie and Grace showcased some of the talent in the school. A lot of connections and re-connections were made during the evening.

Monday 30th saw a novel, all-inclusive activity in the CBS Park. This was a New Ross interpretation of the famous and historic Tailteann Games. The organising committee of John Deely, Colm Browne, Eleanor Tighe and John Halligan chose activities which mirrored some of the events from long ago. Horse shoe throwing, tug of war, 600 metres run and long puck, together with novelty events such as slow-bicycle race, horse and jockey and penalty shoot out.

Transition Year students organised, ran and mentored the class groups. With the overall theme of the day being participation and enjoyment there was something for everyone.





Class 1.2 won the tug of war and Class 3.1 were the overall winners. 600 metre winners were Harry Bolger, Sibú Mpofu, Aaron O'Connell, Oskar Swiergiel, Owen Murphy, Cormac Crotty, Katie Nolan, Dylan Murphy and Conal Delaney. Congratulations to all.

On Tuesday 1st October the entire Transition Year cohort of students travelled to Westcourt Callan, where Blessed Edmund Rice was born. This was organised by teachers Joe Bridges, Aoife Codd, Jim Kavanagh and Roseanne Sinnott.

On Thursday 3rd a statue of Blessed Edmund Ignatius Rice, the Christian Brothers founder, was unveiled in the school grounds by the two youngest students in the school Jason Roche and Ilomusa Tshuma, together with Heads of School Niamh Doyle Maher and Jesse McGrath. The statue was gifted from Synge Street CBS through the generosity of Brother Dermot Ambrose. Monsignor Joe McGrath blessed the statue in a ceremony witnessed by the whole school community.

On Friday night present and past students, including the well-known Nomads and Shanbogh Folk, who were making their second appearance in fifty year, entertained a full house at St. Michael's Theatre to a most enjoyable concert. Tributes were paid to Josephine Oakley for nurturing and developing the talent on display.

Pat Rossiter, ex-principal and student at the school compered the show in his own inimitable style and thanked all the acts who gave so generously of their time. Tomas Kavanagh, Kate Doyle, Claire Wilson, Erica Owens and John Deely ensured a polished professional show.







Mr. Jim Sutton, local historian, gave a well presented and well-researched talk on New Ross as it would have been in 1849. The current students took to the stage and put on a mesmerising performance. Gianna De Perio, Ellie Rose Flynn, Jesse Mc Grath, Ethan Hattersley, Covenant Akinwande, Abbie Rowe, Grace Mullett, Jesse McGrath, together with the school choir and the cast of the upcoming musical Matilda had the audience begging for more.

The second half was as entertaining as any collection of performers the theatre has seen. Shanbogh Folk had a standing ovation. Jack Stacey, Tom Walsh, Mary Gorey and Larry Kirwan showed why they have a thoroughly well-earned reputation for harmony.

Brother and sister, Jack and Jenny Ryan played like consummate professionals with the sweetest voices. Dakota Venn-Keane, one of the rising stars in the south east, entertained with a selection of his own songs. Fionn Murphy, world champion drummer, performed incredible feats on his drum. Lizzie Heffernan and Sean O'Brien, stalwarts of local theatre, brought the house down with their rendition of The Book of Mormon number You and Me (But Mostly Me).

The Nomads took the stage for the final hour and captivated the audience in their own inimitable way. David O'Brien, Tomas Kavanagh, Dermot Kehoe and Sean Connick had just returned from San Francisco and regaled the crowd with stories and song. The night concluded with the entire company and audience joining in a masterful version of Hey Jude.



Finally the week ended with a capacity gathering of former past students in the Brandon House Hotel on Saturday night for a Gala Dinner.

It was a great night and really enjoyable occasion filled with conversation and laughter. Former students who hadn't met in decades were delighted to catch up with friends. Principal Sarah Rice welcomed the guests and introduced the speakers. Brother David Gibson, European Province Leader was present and gave an excellent and well-received address.

The chairman of the 175th committee thanked everyone for their support and paid tribute to the brothers for their selfless contribution to many Irish generations of boys by providing education and enhancing opportunities in life, through difficult economic times in Ireland. Many former students echoed these sentiments.

It was also accepted that not everyone's school experience was positive. A point recognised and acknowledged by Brother Gibson.

Jim Walsh also thanked the members of the organising committee for their work over the past two years in putting together and implementing a challenging programme of events to appropriately celebrate 175 years of Christian Brothers education in New Ross. Margaret Rowe, John Deely, Shane Curran, Susan Synnott, Pat Rossiter and Tomas Kavanagh had successfully delivered a fitting series of events, which involved every section of the school community.

In the coming months a book celebrating 175 years of Christian Brother education in New Ross will be published.

### **A Show to Remember with "Matilda Jr." Performance**

CBS New Ross joined forces with another school to deliver a lively production of Matilda Jr. that wowed audiences at St. Michael's Theatre. Running from November 7th to November 9th, every performance was a sold-out spectacle, blending extraordinary talent, enthusiasm, and months of hard work to bring Roald Dahl's cherished tale to life.

The collaboration between the two schools proved to be a winning formula, with the cast's undeniable chemistry shining through in dynamic performances, intricate choreography, and powerful musical numbers. From the mischievous Matilda to the fearsome Miss Trunchbull, the young performers brought their characters to life with such energy and charisma that audiences were left cheering and applauding long after the final curtain call.



The production was a true testament to teamwork, with a remarkable group of individuals working tirelessly behind the scenes. The striking set design transported audiences straight into Matilda's world. The vibrant dance routines brought boundless energy to the stage, while the show's overall direction was expertly led by former CBS principal Pat Rossiter.

Business and French teacher Claire Wilson together with her colleague from Our Lady of Lourdes Jenny Burke guided the musical direction and provided vocal coaching, ensuring each note was pitch-perfect. Costumes, coordinated by science teacher Erica Owens, added a visual flair to every character, while props meticulously curated by SPHE teacher Kate Doyle enhanced the story's whimsical charm. Irish teacher Sibeal Power and her dedicated team of student stage managers ran the backstage operations seamlessly, ensuring every scene transitioned flawlessly. Meanwhile, Maths teacher Ellen McCarthy and her team worked magic with hair and makeup, completing the transformation of students into their beloved characters. Tomás Kavanagh, manager of St. Michaels Theatre provided light and sound adding to the visual aspect of the production.





Cora McGrath (1st Year) stole the spotlight as Matilda, charming audiences with her sweetness and remarkable vocal talent. Niamh Allen (5th Year) delivered a commanding performance as the tyrannical Miss Trunchbull, keeping everyone on the edge of their seats. Ellie-Rose Flynn (2nd Year) shone as the kind and compassionate Miss Honey, stunning the audience with her incredible vocal range.

Adding to the comedic flair, Ella Barry (5th Year) and George O'Herlihy (3rd Year) delighted as Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood, Matilda's hilariously neglectful parents. Luke Delaney (5th Year) brought infectious energy to the role of Bruce Bogtrotter, while Leah St. Ledger Butler and Jesse McGrath (6th year) captivated as the Acrobat and Escapologist, key figures in Matilda's vivid imagination. Ellie O'Connell (6th Year), brought grace and warmth to her portrayal of Mrs. Phelps the librarian. Deri Teague (5th Year) had the audience in stitches with his lively dancing as Rudolpho.

Parents, teachers, and audience members alike praised the production, with one attendee describing it as “a truly professional performance from start to finish.” This show continues a proud tradition of collaboration between CBS and Our Lady of Lourdes. Many former students have gone on to pursue careers in music and theatre, while others remain active in local drama and musical groups. As the final bows were taken, the students’ joy and sense of accomplishment were palpable. Not only did their efforts translate into packed houses and rave reviews, but they also created lasting memories for themselves and their community. Each performer and stage assistant were presented with a small gift on stage as a mark of their commitment and dedication. This unforgettable production of Matilda Jr. sets a high bar for future performances. Congratulations to everyone involved—from the cast and crew to the talented individuals behind the scenes—for showcasing the immense talent and dedication of our young people.



## High School Clonmel

CBS High School recently celebrated 125 years of Edmund Rice education in Clonmel. The article below has been reproduced with the permission of the Tipp Echo.

20

Tipp Echo

20-11-2024

# CBS High School, Clonmel: 125 years of shaping futures and inspiring excellence

## School's contribution to town lauded at Mayoral Reception

Recently, the historic Town Hall in Clonmel was abuzz with pride and nostalgia as Mayor Cllr Michael Murphy hosted a mayoral reception to mark 125 years of CBS High School Clonmel. The event celebrated the rich history, achievements, and contributions of this institution, fondly described by the Mayor as a "Centre of Educational Excellence."

Opening the evening, Mayor Murphy welcomed a diverse gathering of students, teachers, both past and present, parents, and dignitaries. Reflecting on his own ties to the school, the Mayor expressed his pride as a former pupil. "For me, it's not just about the personal connection or following in the footsteps of greats like Tom Ambrose," he remarked. "It's a celebration of 125 years of education, growth, and positive impact on our community. When I drive past CBS High School today, I see more than a collection of buildings; I see a hub of learning, a place where countless young adults have found their footing and reached their potential."

### TOWN'S MAYOR PAYS TRIBUTE TO HIS ALMA MATER

The Mayor paid tribute to the school's team under the leadership of Principal Karen Steenson, acknowledging the hard work of former principal, staff, administration, and volunteers who have contributed to the school's success. Special mention was made of the Parents' Council and Board of Management, whose dedication ensures the school continues to thrive.

"It's heartwarming to see some of my own former teachers here tonight," the Mayor said, "and to know that the school's legacy is in the capable hands of our current educators and students. This milestone is not just about the past; it's about building a bright future."

The event also featured speeches from other local representatives, including Cllr John Fitzgerald, Cllr Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr Richie Molloy, and Deputy Mattie McGrath, all of whom echoed the Mayor's sentiments. Each speaker highlighted the school's pivotal role in shaping the lives of countless students and contributing to the vibrancy of Clonmel.

One of the evening's highlights was a heartfelt address by Diarmuid Bolger, a former student who has come full circle as a teacher at the school.

It was in this very hall, 125 years ago, that the citizens of Clonmel, united by a shared vision of a brighter future for their sons, laid the foundation for a Catholic secondary school that would leave an indelible mark on generations of young men.

In addressing the gathering, a distinguished alumnus and former teacher of the school spoke passionately about what sets the High School apart. His speech, a blend of humor, nostalgia, and heartfelt gratitude, traced the school's legacy and its commitment to providing unparalleled opportunities for its students.

"Schools may look similar on the surface," he began, sharing an anecdote from his early teaching days in Cork, "but it doesn't take long to realise that each has its own unique culture, values, and aspirations. The High School's defining characteristic, in my view, is its relentless dedication to opportunity."

Reflecting on his own journey as both a student and teacher at the High School, he recounted formative experiences that shaped his life. He spoke of the encouragement he received from staff members who saw potential in him before he saw it in himself. From

being chosen to represent the school in hurling to taking a leap into Transition Year, and even stepping onto the stage for the first time in a school play, he credited the school for nurturing talents and fostering personal growth.

"I've been singing ever since," he joked, "to the delight of some and the dismay of others particularly my wife, children, and long suffering neighbors."

Diarmuid emphasised that this culture of opportunity stems from the school's deep roots in the ethos of Edmund Rice and the Christian Brothers. "Faithful to our founding mission of 'facere et docere' - to do, and to teach, we remain committed to providing an education in the broadest sense to all, irrespective of background," he said. "It's a tradition of service and stewardship that has endured for 125 years."

The evening was also a moment to reflect on the relevance of an all boys Catholic school in today's world. Some might view such an institution as an anachronism, but Diarmuid passionately argued otherwise. "The High School was founded to give dignity and opportunity through education. That mission is timeless. As St. Irenaeus wrote, 'The Glory of God is a man fully alive.' This is what we strive to inspire in every young man who walks through our doors."

### RICH HISTORY AND ENDURING LEGACY

The celebrations were a heartfelt reminder of the High School's rich history and enduring legacy. From the multitude of subjects on offer, including the rare yet cherished presence of Classics, to the myriad extracurricular activities, the High School continues to honor its founding principles by empowering students to discover their potential and achieve greatness.

The words of the Very Rev. Dean McDonnell, spoken at the school's founding, resonated strongly throughout the evening: "We are all extremely glad that the youth of this neighborhood are about to be provided with an opportunity of taking their rightful place in this age of intellectual activity and progress."

As the High School Clonmel looks to the future, it does so with pride in its past and confidence in its mission. For 125 years, it has been a beacon of opportunity, and it stands ready to continue that tradition for generations to come.

Among the evening's highlights was a stirring speech by current pupil Harry McMahon, who captivated the audience with his heartfelt words about his journey at the school.

Standing confidently before the assembled guests, Harry began by acknowledging the significance of the occasion. "Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Borough Council, the Board of Management, high school staff, and parent representatives, I am honored to stand before you as the chosen representative of the High School Clonmel. Tonight, we celebrate 125 years of this extraordinary institution, a place that has shaped countless lives, including my own."

Harry, now in his final year, reflected on his transformative journey at the school. "It feels like only yesterday that I first set foot through the doors, weighed down by a heavy schoolbag and wearing a uniform my mam assured me I'd grow into," he quipped, eliciting smiles from the crowd. "Looking back, these years have been so much more than academic. They've been pivotal in shaping who I am today."

Harry spoke passionately about how the school



Mayor of Clonmel, Cllr Michael Murphy, presents CBS High School principal, Karen Steenson with a scroll to mark the occasion of the historic mayoral reception for the school at the Town Hall

nurtured his confidence and communication skills, crediting extracurricular opportunities such as the Model United Nations, debating, and the Student Leadership Group. He recalled a defining moment when he delivered a speech to an audience of over 600 people in Cork City Hall, an experience he never imagined back in his first year.

"I also came to the High School with an undying love for music and performing," he continued. "The school has been a haven for my passion. From joining the Music Group to singing with the Schola Cantorum, and taking part in the school show, I've made lifelong friendships and learned invaluable skills like collaboration, adaptability, and self-expression."

Harry's gratitude shone as he praised the dedicated teachers who had supported him and his peers every step of the way. "Without their encouragement, I wouldn't have the confidence to stand before you today. Their unwavering commitment to both education and personal growth is truly inspiring."

The speech also highlighted the school's commitment to holistic education, balancing academic

excellence with extracurricular enrichment. Harry shared memories of school trips to Barcelona and London, recounting how exploring new cultures and architecture strengthened bonds within his year group. "Even if we were half asleep in the mornings, those moments created memories we'll cherish forever," he joked.

As Harry concluded, he reflected on the profound lessons the High School had instilled in him, emphasising the importance of small acts of kindness. "The school has taught me to appreciate the little things, holding a door open, checking in on a friend, or simply walking someone up to Dunnes. These quiet moments of kindness often go unnoticed but have extraordinary value."

Quoting W.B. Yeats, he left the audience with a poignant thought: "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

Harry's eloquence and authenticity captured the spirit of the High School, a place that has been igniting fires of learning, creativity, and community for 125 years.



### PRINCIPAL'S HEARTFELT AND INSPIRING WORDS

Principal Karen Steenson, the first woman to hold the esteemed role in the school's history, delivered a heartfelt and inspiring closing speech. Addressing an audience, Principal Steenson reflected on the remarkable journey that has shaped the school into the pillar of education and community it is today.

"Tonight, we honor not just 125 years of service but the generations of visionaries who built this legacy," said Principal Steenson. "As the first female Principal, I am deeply aware that I am part of a much larger story, a story written by extraordinary leaders who dedicated themselves to the success of our students and the strength of our community."

She paid tribute to her predecessors, acknowledging their tireless efforts in creating a foundation of excellence. "Their vision and commitment laid the groundwork for the school we celebrate today," she continued. "It is my privilege to carry their legacy forward, ensuring that our institution not only preserves its cherished traditions but also embraces the innovation and inclusivity needed for the future."

Principal Steenson emphasised the school's continued commitment to nurturing young men who are not only academically prepared but also socially responsible and engaged citizens. "We are proud to be a place where students grow into capable, thoughtful young men, equipped to contribute meaningfully to the world beyond these walls," she said.

She also extended heartfelt thanks to the Clonmel Town Council and the wider community for their unwavering support. "Your encouragement allows us to strike the perfect balance between honoring our history and embracing the changes that will shape our next 125 years," she noted.

### LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD ALSO

The evening was not only a celebration of the past but also a look forward, filled with optimism and ambition for the future. As Principal Steenson eloquently put it, "Together, we stand on the shoulders of giants, and together we will ensure that this school continues to inspire and educate for generations to come."

Also in attendance was School Chaplain Fr. Michael Toomey who recited Edmund Ignatius Rice Prayer, to much appreciation of the crowd.

The night concluded with a showcase from current students, who shared their stories and talents, reminding everyone in attendance of the enduring spirit of CBS High School, Clonmel. The event was not just a look back on a proud history, but a celebration of the values and vision that will guide the school into the future.

As the applause echoed through the Town Hall, one thing was clear: CBS High School's legacy is a cornerstone of Clonmel's history, and its next chapter looks as promising as ever.

Here's to the next 125 years!

Report by: Clonmel Stories.



## Scholarships

Two High School students, Peter Carroll and Tom O'Leary, were offered scholarships based on attaining the highest results in the Junior Cert German state exam. Peter availed of the scholarship and went to Germany for two weeks. It was an amazing experience that he will never forget. It made him realise that the most important thing in speaking a foreign language is confidence and he was very proud that he was able to communicate in German and spoke no English for the duration of his stay.



## CBS Secondary School Kilkenny

### Christmas in Kilkenny CBS

The Christmas term is an incredibly special time of year in CBS Kilkenny, where we reflect upon our good fortune and extend the hand of friendship and solidarity into our community through a range of initiatives and events which have become much cherished traditions among our school community.



Our fantastic choirs, trad and jazz bands launched the festive period in fine style with our annual carol service in St Mary's Cathedral. Special thanks to Ms Dowling, Ms Somers, Ms Evison, Fr Murphy and to all our amazing singers, musicians and performers on what was a heartwarming and inspiring showcase of their myriad of talents.





December also saw the return of our Christmas Jumper Day, Annual St Vincent de Paul Appeal, Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal and Christmas Letters to the Elderly initiative which helped spread Christmas cheer around the city and raised over three thousand euros for local charities.





Special mention this term must go to our wonderful Junior Hurling Team who were crowned Leinster Champions after an epic final showdown with St Kieran's College at Nowlan Park. Nothing quite brings out the sense of community and strengthens the bonds among our students and staff, past and present than a successful day at the park! Well done boys, we are enormously proud of you all.



*Finally, on behalf of the entire CBS Kilkenny school community, we would like to wish all the readers and all our ERST family of schools a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.*



## Coláiste Choilm Swords

The ERST charter is being lived in Coláiste Choilm as we await the end of Christmas Term. From National Awards to involvement in the local community to wellbeing days and different learning experiences and just sheer fun, the community of Coláiste Choilm is working hard and looking forward to 2025!



### Excelling in Teaching and Learning

Best project in Ireland in Leaving Certificate Technology:

It was congratulations all round to Charles Alexander, class of 2024 who was awarded the Young Technologist of the Year, 2024 by ETТА, (Engineering and Technology Teachers Association). Charles's project in Leaving Certificate Higher Level Technology was judged to be the best in Ireland.

Charles, Mr. Gaffney and Mr. Malone attended a special reception in Sligo to receive the award of 1st place. Charles is pictured with Mr Gaffney.



### 4th year Art students take on Dublin City

The 4th year students and Ms Doherty took their Art class into the city centre, visiting The University of Dublin, Trinity College to see the Book of Kells and then onto the National Museum of Ireland and the National Gallery.



### 5th year students at the IFI

Meanwhile 5th year French students took off for a morning to attend the IFI (Irish Film Institute) to watch 'Les Trous Fantastiques'.

5th year French students with Ms. Power and Ms. O'Gorman at the IFI

### 4th and 5th year students at the National Indoor Arena

With Physical Education now an exam subject for the last 3 years, the 4th year students who take SLS (Social and Leisure Studies) and 5th year students who take LCPE visited the Sports Ireland National Indoor Arena in Abbotstown for a day of athletics, gymnastics, weightlifting and gathering data on performance. Mr. Murphy (4th year SLS) and Mr. Connolly (5th year LCPE) accompanied the students.



### Art Pottery Class

Ms. Doherty is keeping the senior students very busy. Pictured are some of our students in the Art Room at the potters wheel.



## Barber Course

The 4th year class took their learning outside the classroom and completed a barbering course. They learned about the industry and then...you guessed it, it was clippers at the ready as students and even Mr. Foster had his haircut in the canteen. The start of a career for some and a lot learned by all the students.



## Student Enterprise Awards

Coláiste Choilm has launched its own 'Student Hub' for use in project work and upcoming changes to assessment in Leaving Cert. The students in 1st and 2nd year used it to prepare for their Student Enterprise project. In groups of 5 or less, they designed, created and sold products in the school. While some branded products, others created goods from scratch. In keeping with our traditions as an ERST school, 'to do and to teach' the students embraced all their Business Studies knowledge, and, even made a profit.



## Promoting Transformational Leadership

As the only all-boys school in Swords, Coláiste Choilm is a proud supporter of any initiative that supports Mental Health of men. This year, the prefect team, led by Alex Cheevers, formed the 'Bearded Bunch' of 6th year students and staff, raising over €1,000 for Movember.

Students who couldn't let their beard grow out ran an impressive 60km in November. Through online videos and updates and intercom announcements, the team created an awareness of men's physical and mental health issues.







### **6th year Prefects find their voice on 'Upfront' with Katie Hannon, RTÉ 1**

Over 200 years ago, Bl. Edmund helped young men find their voice. In his school in Swords, the 6th year Prefects were voicing their concerns and discussing the issues of 2024 as audience members of *Upfront with Katie Hannon*.





## Nurturing Faith, Christian Spirituality and Gospel Based Values

During November and December, the 4th year class have been volunteering in the community by attending weekly mass at 10am in St. Cronan's Church and leading the liturgy of the Word, deliver the prayers of the faithful, presenting gifts and give the reflection. At this stage each student in the class has taken some active part in liturgy.

After mass students join the parishioners for tea and coffee in the parish centre. This is a chance to talk and meet people away from school. One of the volunteers recently celebrated a big birthday and the 4th year class gladly provided a lively rendition of 'Happy Birthday'.



These items were then donated to the local St. Vincent de Paul. Last week, after mass, the 4th year students helped to pack the hampers for those in need this Christmas. Next week is the final mass of the term, and the parishioners have arranged a party for the students, something we are all looking forward to.





This has also inspired some students to get involved in the Young Social Innovator programme by fundraising with Anew, a local charity for homeless women and children. Next week the students will be selling Christmas cards in the Pavilions Shopping Centre to raise funds for a much needed cause. With posters up around the local area and promotional videos online, it is all systems go!



### **The month of Holy Souls**

November allowed the school community time to reflect and remember those in our lives who have entered into rest.

By writing a name of a loved one on a 'candle' and posting on our memory board, we joined together to share our experiences in support of each other.

### **The Advent Wreath**

As December came upon us, it was time for advent, a time of preparation for the Word made flesh. The advent wreath was first lit by Cameron Starbuck from 3rd year who joined Sean Sheridan and Sean Smith – Derby from 4th year who led the school in a prayer service over the intercom. The four candles, represent hope, peace, joy and love. The central white candle represents the coming of Jesus Christ and is lit on Christmas day. The wreath was blessed by Mr. Foster, using holy water brought back from Lourdes by the 6th year students who attended the Dublin Diocese Pilgrimage in September.



## Rice College Westport

### Ghana Appeal - F.Macken

Well done to all the students, teachers and parents who helped out in collecting sports gear and books for the Ghana appeal. A large amount of books and sports gear has been recently sent to Ghana at the end of October!

Thank you to Noeline Haylett and Seosamh McNally for facilitating the event on behalf of the charity [www.crosscause.ie](http://www.crosscause.ie). Crosscause delivers the books to the area in Ghana.

Thank you to Vanessa Rose at The Quay School Westport and Tom O'Flynn in Santa Maria, Louisburgh for their help in collecting books for this very worthy cause.



### 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.





## Friendship Week 2024

We held our annual Friendship Week in September. The theme of the week was “a good friend is the one of the best things you can be and the greatest thing you can have”. Students participated in various activities during the week which centred around friendship and making new friends.

Our TY Wellbeing Team launched the week with a Friendship Display and they delivered a sweet treat to every student. Our TY students made a friendship planter for the school to mark the week as friendships like plants need certain conditions to grow. The TY Wellbeing Team organised many events which included a Football for All for 1E and our Autism Class, a penalty shootout and a soccer match.

During the week students participated in a Maker Meet Dome Building workshop which was kindly funded by ATU Sligo. Students learned about the importance of communication and teamwork skills during the workshop. Our community guard visited the school and delivered a comprehensive cyberbullying presentation to all classes. He spoke about the importance of being safe online and being a responsible digital citizen. We held our first ever Silent Disco with our Autism Class and some of their friends.

Our English classes entered the annual Friendship Poetry competition where they composed some wonderful poems about the nature of friendship and the qualities of a good friend. The winners were Paddy, Zac, Nathan, Michael and Patrick. The judging panel commented on the high standard of entries.

During the week students made posters, listened to songs, watched videos, completed a friendship meditation and played friendship bingo to name a few of the other activities which were organised by teachers. Our religion classes participated in a workshop where they learned about doves and how they are the universal symbol for peace and new beginnings. Students wore odd socks on Friday to celebrate their individuality and what makes them unique. The combinations ranged from football socks to dress socks in a wide variety of colours.

It was a most enjoyable week for students and it helped to ease their transition into Rice College. Special thanks to our TY Wellbeing Team for organising activities and leading initiatives. The student voice and lived experience is valued in Rice College especially during Friendship Week and other Wellbeing initiatives.



## **Rice College Westport Offers Coeducation from September 2025**

The Department of Education formally approved our application for coeducation status earlier this year. History will be made in September when our school enrolls girls for the first time since we opened in 1865. Our principal Mr Rabbette stated that as a school community we are excited to embark on this new chapter and are looking forward to providing a positive learning environment that fosters academic excellence, fairness and inclusion for all learners who choose Rice College.



### **Ms. Mannion's English Corner Poetry Aloud Poetry Speaking Competition 2024**

Two of our 1st year students, Marcus Moran and Samuel Stevens, have been selected to represent Rice College in this year's Poetry Aloud Competition 2024.

Poetry Aloud is an annual poetry speaking competition which celebrates the joy of speaking and listening to poetry. It engages students with spoken poetry, building confidence and pride in our written heritage.

Our two participants have entered the Junior Category which involved learning and performing the prescribed poem, 'The Last Peacock' by the late Irish poet, Gerald Dawe.

We wish Marcus and Sam the very best of luck in the competition and thank you for representing our school so well. We are so proud of you both.





## Transition Year in Rice College Westport

It was a busy first term for our Transition Year Boys here in Rice College. They came back with a mixture of emotions but more importantly pride as they wore their maroon senior uniforms for the first time.

Their first trip was an overnight trip to Killary Adventure Centre. They had luck on their side as they enjoyed two sunny days overlooking the Killary Fjord. Their activities included zipping around the aerial park, archery, the Killary challenge and the turf challenge! The night time activities were less strenuous as they enjoyed a game of dodgeball, pool and a hot chocolate before bed! Thanks to Ms.Canavan and Mr Hopkins for joining them on this trip.

They enjoyed a trip to Carrowniskey to catch some waves after a lesson from Surf Mayo. They enjoyed a gorgeous lunch in Tia's Cafe after a 2hr surf to warm up and enjoy the treats prepared by Anna. The chicken goujons went down a treat! Thanks to Mr.Connolly for joining us on this trip.

They started several programmes such as Introduction to First Aid with Order of Malta, Mini- Company with Pearce Flannery from LEO, MindOut with John from Venture Out, Future Leaders, GAA Coaching with Eoin Sweeney, Concern Debates, Model United Nations and RSE.

They completed many workshops and welcomed several guest speakers such as the Irish Defence Forces, NUI Galway representative, Bodhran making, LGBTQ+, Stay Safe Stay Sober with An Garda Siochana and Gillian Conway, Venture Out and Forensic Fun. They competed in the 38th Maths Olympiad Round 1, where 5 students scored highly and were invited to attend workshops in local Universities.





They have completed some charity work by collecting funds for St Brendan's in Mulranny through a bucket collection around Westport town. Five students hosted their first coffee morning for the local hospice and raised €1834.10.

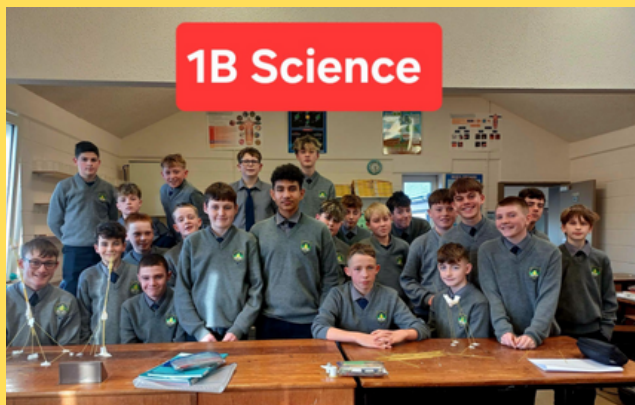


One incredible student, Conan Reilly, walked 220 Km as part of a camino charity fundraiser. He has raised €1910 for his chosen charity.

Some students have also had the opportunity to work with the autism class by having a weekly dance off and visiting the class when they finished their bodhran for a sing song.

Many took part in extracurricular activities such as Golf, Soccer, GAA, Basketball and Rugby. Others took part in school activities in preparation for 'Friendship Week'.

Lastly, the long awaited Junior Cycle results were finally released with many students receiving incredible results which included some Distinctions.





## Oatlands Primary School



### Meeting the Taoiseach at School

The Edmund Rice School's Trust School Council were delighted to meet Taoiseach Simon Harris recently. They discussed some of the super events happening at school, and they got to shake hands with Mr Harris. He was very pleased to meet the students, and they did some writings and drawings for him to see, based on things that they have enjoyed most at school in 2024.

### Opening of Our Sensory Room

The official opening of the sensory room took place this month. All the students who benefit so much from the sensory room were in attendance, along with their SNA's. Also celebrated was the wonderful work of the Together Academy, with past pupil Alex Smith making a VIP visit. Alex' Mum Cathy was the creator of the Together academy, and we remember her wonderful work and dedication. We are delighted to have this resource in our school campus.





### Recycling Decorations - Green Schools

There were many amazing entries for our green school competition this year. The students created wonderful decorations with beautiful details, and attention was paid to only using recycled materials. Well done to all participants, and we look forward to hearing who the winner is. It will be a very difficult decision!





## Christmas Carols at the Radisson Hotel with Brent Pope

Children from Oatlands were delighted to be asked to sing at the Radisson Hotel Stillorgan. They were joined by Brent Pope and a selection of rugby players, to highlight his important mental health initiative entitled 'The elephant in the Room'. This project puts the spotlight firmly on mental health in the workplace, by placing a colourful elephant within the work or school environment. It reminds us to be aware of the importance of dignity and respect for mental health, at work and at school. The children sang beautifully and Christmas had well and truly begun!





## Doon CBS Primary School



### Annual Visit to the Brothers of Charity

Well done our Student Council for delivering Christmas cards and singing songs for the residents of the Brothers of Charity in Doon.







## Advent Wreath 2024

Our youngest pupil (Seamus Bradshaw) and our oldest pupil (Dovydas Puidokas) light the first candle on our advent wreath.



## Links with the University of Limerick

We have a great connection with UL in Limerick. Recently they came to discuss Equine science with the pupils. An entertaining time was had by all.





### **Rock of Cashel**

Pupils from 6th class recently visited The Rock of Cashel and had a great day out.

### **Cabragh Woods**

Pupils from 2nd and 3rd class recently visited Cabragh Woods in Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Here they learned all about native and non-native animals.





**Photographs from the Children of the World Christmas Carol Service performed by the boys of Doon C.B.S. Primary School, Co. Limerick.**





## CBC Preparatory School Cork

### Science Week 2024

Science Week took place from 10th – 17th November 2024 and there were lots of mini scientists to be found in the Prep School all week. Once again, we celebrated with a number of classroom activities that align with the Science Curriculum. Boys completed various experiments throughout the week, that led them to some thought- provoking conclusions. Class teachers also arranged various activities for their individual classes aimed at promoting STEM in the Prep School. All classes greatly enjoyed the demonstrations from 3rd Class as they carried out a series of interesting experiments.



### Anti Bullying Week 2024

Anti Bullying Week took place in November, with the theme *Choose Respect*. An Odd Socks Day took place on Tuesday 12th November with students and teachers wearing odd socks to school for the day to celebrate what makes us all unique. A Poster Competition was held with boys designing posters that reflected the message “Be a Buddy, Not a Bully” and classes creating class pledges committing to standing up to bullying and supporting each other.





## Debating in 5th Class 2024

5th Class worked very hard on their persuasive writing and language skills this term so they were put to the test in a whole class debate. These skills are essential as they empower students to express their opinions effectively and develop critical thinking. These activities encouraged the boys in 5th Class to structure arguments logically, use evidence to support their ideas, and consider different perspectives, fostering empathy and understanding. Engaging in persuasive writing and debates enhances communication skills and confidence, preparing students for future academic and social challenges. The boys did a fantastic job and no doubt we have some future barristers in our midst!



## 3rd & 4th Class Dáil Éireann Tour

In November, 3rd & 4th Class students and their teachers visited Dáil Éireann. This was an exciting opportunity for the boys to learn about Ireland's political system and history first-hand, particularly as we head into election season. The boys enjoyed a tour through the historic halls of Leinster House where they were introduced to the roles of the Taoiseach, TDs, and Seanad members. They explored the Dáil chamber, where lively debates take place, and marvelled at the elegant architecture and rich heritage of the building. On this trip, the boys also visited Dublin Zoo to take part in a highly interactive and immersive session in Zoorasic World. The highlight of this was when they became "Dinosaur Detectives" and carried out their very own palaeontological dig with specialist equipment.



### **Rugby Internationals**

Boys in the senior end of the school enjoyed some fantastic rugby in the Aviva Stadium, boarding the buses decked out in green and ready to cheer on their rugby heroes.

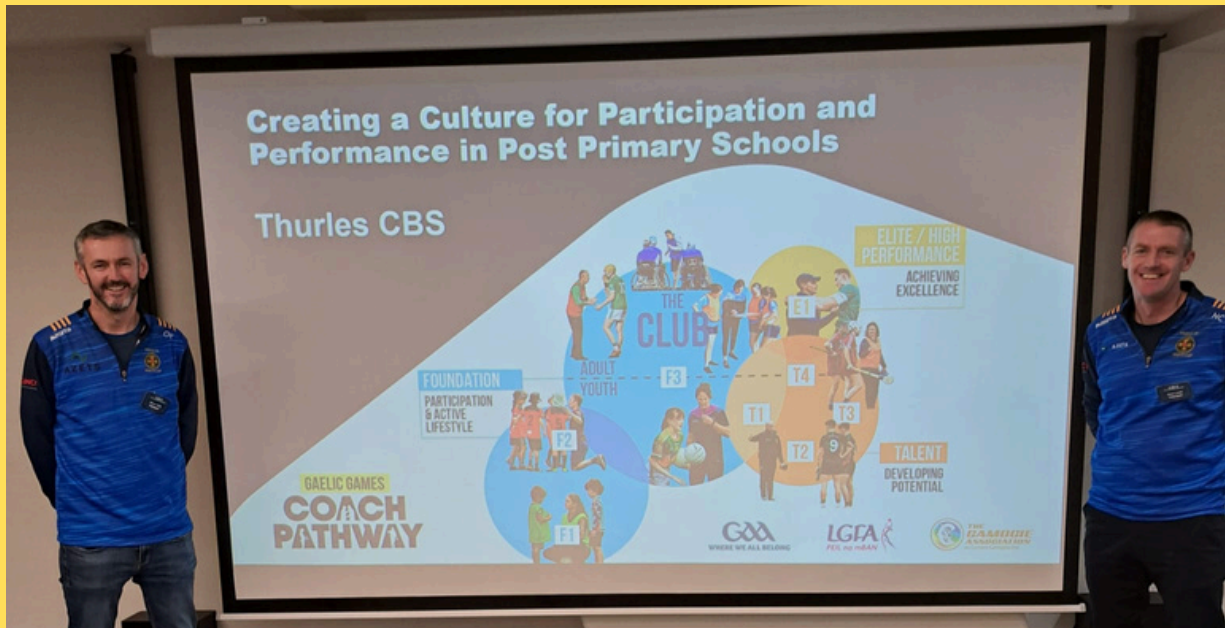
Arriving at the busy stadium, the boys and their teachers soaked in the atmosphere. There was lots of enthusiastic cheering and chanting and lots of very hoarse boys as they arrived back to Cork, tired but happy after some fantastic sporting occasions.

### **Christmas at the Prep School**

Christmas Preparations are in full swing at the Prep School. Our 5th and 6th Class students were delighted to visit CBS Sexton Street and have a day of fun and activities with another ERST primary school. The whole school visited the cinema to see Paddington in Peru – a hugely enjoyable outing for all. Our annual donation drive for local Cork charity, Cork Penny Dinners was very successful with lots of vouchers donated by the generous families in our school. A Christmas jumper day was held on Monday 16th December and the boys enjoyed hot chocolate and a festive atmosphere in school. Our annual Christmas concert takes place on Wednesday 18th December and is sure to be a fantastic end to a very busy term.



## Thurles CBS



### GAA National Coaching Conference in Croke Park

The GAA National Coaching Conference took place in Croke Park for the first time this weekend in four years. It is one of the biggest coaching conferences of its type in Europe with over 750 coaches attending. The theme of this year's Coaching Conference was 'Coaching for the Future: Where we All Belong.' The conference this year was based on player retention and aimed particularly at children and teenagers. It was a huge honour for us as a school to be chosen by the All-Ireland Post Primary Schools (National body for all GAA competitions) as a school of best practise in relation to maintaining really high levels of participation throughout the six years in school as well as performing and competing at a very high level. Mr Cahill and Mr Kelly outlined CBS Thurles's commitment to player participation, giving a presentation entitled "Creating a Culture for Participation and Performance in post primary schools". We were asked to tell our story in relation to how the school manage to have numerous teams competing at all age grades in schools hurling. Several schools have high numbers at first year but find a big drop off throughout the six years. The workload and commitment by the staff in the school was highlighted in relation to their dedication to make sure as many boys as possible are given the opportunity to train each year and represent the school in competitions. Numerous examples of the school entering two, three and four teams in competitions were presented and how they take place. Tipperary Games & Development, and Tipperary PPS were commended for the massive effort they make to run extra competitions and support the school. Several people could hardly believe that we entered four U17 teams in the county competition last year using 76 players, 74 of which were of the age. A question and answers session also took place over the 45 minutes of the presentation. Ciaran Kearney, secretary to the All-Ireland Post Primary Schools organisation facilitated the presentation. Antrim and Cushendall star Neil McManus, one of the key speakers on the day, was in awe at the sheer numbers involved in hurling in our school.

As a school the staff have worked extremely hard over the years to give every boy the chance to be involved on our hurling panels from 1st year to Harty Cup, so to be selected as a national example of good practise at a conference relating to player retention performance and participation, is something we are extremely proud of. As a school we are about participation and developing a player pathway for each boy to reach their potential. Some will go on to play inter county hurling while others will continue to play with their clubs or become coaches or administrators in the association.



The clubs and feeder schools that the boys are from were complimented during the presentation for the support and exemplary efforts they give to the boys to continue playing into adulthood. Our S&C, GAA program for players was complemented especially for boys that were not on county development squads, meaning that in conjunction with the clubs that these boys have the best possible chance of reaching their potential and continuing playing into adult competition. The Rice Cup hurling competition for CBS, former CBS and ERST schools was presented as an example of an opportunity to increase participation amongst students. The four competitions that take place within the structure of the competition is a great example of promoting participation for all students not just the first team.



# Brother Tallon Cup 2024



In September of 2024, Sean Popovici and Ayse Kelleci were awarded the Brother Tallon Cup in Woodbrook College.

They received this prestigious cup as they both achieved the highest marks in their Leaving Certificate exams in the class of '24. Chairman, Pat Keating awarded Sean and Ayse with the Brother Tallon Cup to acknowledge and celebrate their hard work and amazing achievement. Their name will now be engraved on the cup. In addition to that, they received a plaque of their own from Principal Hurley, congratulating them for their great accomplishment.

Brother Tallon was an important figure in Woodbrook College. He taught in several secondary schools around the country before settling in St. Brendan's in 1985. He served as the last Christian Brother Principal, retiring in 1990. Although he had retired, Br. Tallon continued with his passion for education and nature. He always asked for recent and up-to-date information in the textbooks of Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics so he could keep a sharp mind on these subjects. Even though he may not be with us anymore, the Board of Management of Woodbrook College, formerly St. Brendan's, commissioned the "Tallon Memorial Cup" and awarded it to the student with the best Leaving Certificate result for the year. It is fitting that his name should be associated with the achieving of excellence in education and the dedication that this takes for the individual involved.

# Student Leadership Team 2024-2025



Deputy Head Boy  
Iliya Emami



Head Girl  
Aisling Tapley



Head Boy  
Malachy Blunden



Deputy Head Girl  
Emma Kenny



Prefects



Student Mentors



Student Council



# Woodbrook College

## An Edmund Rice School

By Mr Horgan

As we approached mid-term, our students delved into a meaningful lesson about our founder, Edmund Rice, organised by Ms Shiely. As part of the lesson, the Art Department curated a large, whole-school artwork. Together, all our students contributed to the Great Whirling Spiral of Edmund Rice, a symbol representing the creative journey we embark on as a community. Each student added their own unique colour to the spiral, which now proudly adorns our canteen. This vibrant display stands as a testament to our commitment to continuing Edmund Rice's legacy—proving that together, we can achieve great things.

At Woodbrook College, we embrace the mission of Edmund Rice schools, serving young people from diverse backgrounds and swiftly adapting to the evolving needs of our students and communities. Our educational approach is rooted in a holistic vision, encompassing five key elements:

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality, and Gospel-based values.
- Promoting partnership.
- Excelling in teaching and learning.
- Creating a caring school community.
- Inspiring transformational leadership.

Let us carry these values forward as we grow and learn together!





# CREATIVE SCHOOLS GRANT

## **Dungarvan CBS Embraces Creativity with €4000 Creative Schools Grant**

Dungarvan CBS is excited to announce that it has been awarded a €4000 grant from the Creative Schools initiative. This two-year project aims to foster a creative culture within the school, empowering students to explore and express their artistic talents.

The school's staff received an insightful induction session from Muireann nic Cába, the Creative Schools associate assigned to Dungarvan CBS. Muireann will be working closely with the students over the coming weeks, introducing them to a variety of creative avenues and inspiring them to think outside the box.

The Creative Schools initiative offers a wealth of opportunities for students to engage in creative activities, from visual arts and music to drama and writing. Dungarvan CBS is eager to utilize this funding to provide students with resources and experiences that will nurture their creativity and broaden their horizons.

As the project unfolds, students will be encouraged to collaborate with each other, experiment with different artistic mediums, and develop their own unique creative voices. The school community looks forward to witnessing the transformative impact of this initiative on the students' learning and personal growth.



### **CINEMA TRIP**

Thanks to all the students from all year groups who helped out on Open Night. To say thank you, they were rewarded with a cinema trip. to see *Paddington*.



## STANDING UP FOR PRIDE

Well done to all the staff and students who took part in the Stand Up Campaign to celebrate inclusivity in our school.



## 1ST YEAR ART

The first-year art students were busy creating miniature volcanoes using plaster of paris. With their hands coated in a mixture of water and plaster, they moulded the shapes of their volcanoes, careful to create a realistic cone.

Once dry, the students painted their creations in vibrant hues of brown, orange, and red to mimic the colours of real volcanoes. These colourful volcanoes will be delivered to the Geography department, where they will be used as props during the first-year geography lesson on volcanoes. The students eagerly anticipate the day when their creations will erupt with a simulated volcanic eruption.



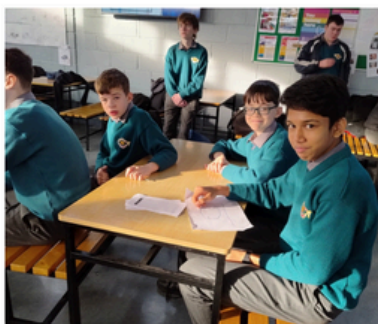


## ENGINEERING SUCCESS

Huge congratulations to John Maher, who sat his Leaving Certificate last June. John was awarded a prize by Engineering Technology Teachers' Association in Sligo on November 23rd. His LC engineering project was deemed one of the best in the country.

In the picture is ETТА president Sean O'Gorman along with John's mother Ciara and his sister. John is studying for a degree in Marine Biology in Galway.

Congratulations also to John's Engineering teacher, Mr Doran.



## SCIENCE QUIZ

A group of TY's organised a science quiz for the first years.

The TYs made the questions and had the quiz in the main assembly, it lasted nearly 2 hours. The TY's were correcting, collecting the answers, acting as an MC and assisting on the day. The TYs had great fun making it. Congratulations to the 1st Prize winners; Dara Cleary, Ollie Cunningham and Colm Dalton

## SOAR WORKSHOP

As part of our commitment to supporting the wellbeing of our students, we are delighted to host the SOAR Workshop for our 6th-year pupils. This workshop is a highly regarded program designed to help students develop practical strategies for managing stress and maintaining their wellbeing, particularly during this demanding final year of secondary school.

6th year is an especially demanding time for students, with the pressures of exams and preparing for the future. This workshop offers a unique opportunity for our pupils to learn valuable tools and strategies for managing stress, improving their wellbeing, and navigating these challenges with confidence.

The SOAR Workshop focuses on:

- Developing resilience in the face of adversity.
- Building self-awareness and emotional management skills.
- Promoting a positive mindset and personal growth.
- Equipping students with practical techniques to manage stress effectively.

We believe this workshop greatly benefited our students, helping them not only to cope with the demands of 6th year but also to develop lifelong skills for managing stress and challenges.



## 6th Year Cinema Trip 🍿



6th year students welcomed the new term by venturing down to Dungarvan cinema to see the long-awaited film adaptation of Claire Keegan's historical fiction novel '*Small Things Like These*', starring Cillian Murphy.

The boys are studying the novel as part of their comparative course in English, and seeing the powerful 80s Ireland morality tale be brought to life on screen was a fantastic opportunity for them.



## BAKE SALE FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

2nd year students organised and hosted a Christmas Bake Sale in aid of our local Saint Vincent de Paul, raising €405.

Students and staff baked a range of cakes, buns, cookies and sweet treats, selling to students in all year groups. Staff and students showed great support in aid of a fantastic cause! The event was a huge success, with a lovely Christmas atmosphere.



## THIRD YEAR TRIP TO VELOCITY

At Velocity, 3rd Year students enjoyed an immersive gaming experience that had everyone engaged and entertained. The day was packed with fun and excitement! Following our time at Velocity, we made our way into Waterford City. The day concluded with some time for shopping, giving the students a chance to relax and spend time with each other.



It was a pleasure to see the students unwind and enjoy themselves after all their hard work during exam season. Their enthusiasm throughout the day were exemplary, and they truly deserved this opportunity to celebrate their efforts.

# TY BODHRÁN MAKING

Transition Year Students Drum Up Creativity with Unique Bodhráns

TYS experienced a wonderful Bodhrán Making workshop. The facilitator, Michael, was as always so inspiring and calm in his delivery of this workshop. He even took the time to teach the students a few tunes which they thoroughly enjoyed.

In Art class, Transition Year students decorated and personalized their bodhráns.

Each student designed a unique image that reflects their individual style and interests. From intricate Celtic patterns to bold abstract designs, the variety of artwork is truly impressive.

The project has been a fantastic opportunity for TY students to learn about Irish culture and tradition while also engaging in a hands-on, creative activity. It's clear that these young artists have taken great pride in their work, and their finished bodhráns are sure to be treasured for years to come.

