SPRING 2026
E-SÍOL



STORIES FROM OUR NETWORK OF SCHOOLS

Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust

Welcome

Welcome to this latest edition of eSíol, our network magazine serving the 96 schools of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust. As I reflect on the life of our network in recent weeks, I am struck by its depth, its energy and its coherence of purpose. Across the Trust, there is unmistakable evidence of a community that is not only active, but truly vibrant.

Our Charter continues to provide a clear and compelling anchor for our work. It articulates who we are, what we stand for and the distinctive educational vision entrusted to us. Equally, our Strategic Plan gives expression to that vision, translating aspiration into priorities and measurable action. What is most encouraging is seeing our Charter and Strategic Plan not as texts, but as living frameworks – so evident in school initiatives, leadership engagement and student voice across the network.

The recent Religious Education Conference is a case in point. The exceptionally high level of participation speaks volumes about the commitment of our teachers and leaders to the faith dimension of our schools. It reflected a network confident in its identity and willing to engage constructively with the challenges of contemporary education.

Similarly, the forthcoming Deputy Principals' Conference has attracted a remarkable number of participants. This is significant. Deputy principals occupy a pivotal leadership role in our schools – operationally demanding and strategically influential. The strong engagement strengthens the leadership spine of the Trust and enhances our collective capacity to deliver on our mission.

I am equally heartened by the extraordinary level of interest in the Student Council regional gatherings scheduled for March. Student leadership is not peripheral to our work; it is absolutely intrinsic to it. When young people choose to participate in dialogue and shared reflection at regional level, it demonstrates ownership of the ethos that defines our schools. It also reminds us that our mission is ultimately about empowerment – encouraging young people who are articulate, compassionate and socially conscious.

In this context, it is fitting at this time of year, to recall the example of Saint Brigid, whose legacy is associated with hospitality, generosity and the quiet strength of community. Those same qualities are evident throughout our schools today – in classrooms, staffrooms, leadership forums and student gatherings.

eSíol exists to capture and communicate these lived realities. It is both a record and a catalyst: a space to share practice, celebrate commitment and strengthen our sense of belonging to something larger than any one school.

Thank you for the generosity and leadership, at all levels of our schools. The signs of vitality are clear. Our Trust has grown in reach and depth, founding new schools and walking with each school as we have collectively built on the legacy entrusted to us. Together we are nurturing a network that is confident in its identity, clear in its strategy and hopeful about the future.

Gerry Bennett
Chief Executive.

Contributors

1. ***Edmund Rice College Dublin***
2. ***Christian Brothers College Kilkenny***
3. ***Coláiste Mhuire Cabra***
4. ***St Mary's Academy Carlow***
5. ***Charleville CBS***
6. ***Christian Brothers College Cork***
7. ***Ardscoil na Mara Tramore***
8. ***Oatlands Primary School***
9. ***Coláiste Éamann Rís Cork***
10. ***Woodbrook College Bray***
11. ***Rice College Westport***
12. ***Coláiste Mhichíl Limerick***
13. ***O'Connell Secondary School Dublin***
14. ***Mount Sion Primary School***
15. ***New Ross CBS***
16. ***High School Clonmel***
17. ***Coláiste Eoin Baile Átha Cliath***
18. ***Portlaoise CBS***
19. ***Waterpark College Waterford***
20. ***Scoil Íosagáin Limerick***
21. ***Dungarvan CBS***
22. ***Doon CBS Primary School***
23. ***Coláiste Íosagáin Baile Átha Cliath***
24. ***Coláiste Choilm Swords***

Edmund Rice College Dublin

Horticulture Visist to the Phoenix Park

At the start of October, along with the Green schools committee, we had a workshop with Biodiversity in schools teacher Elizabeth Tiernan, who took us on a tour of the school grounds, naming many of the native trees and plants we have growing around us. We were encouraged to set aside areas for 'rewilding' which will benefit our pollinators such as bees , birds and butterflies. Phoenix 2, with the help of Mr Gilmartin, made signs to mark and show where these areas are.



PHOENIX ORCHARD

Phoenix Orchard

With the support of Mr Harrington we have started to plant and orchard area in the green beside Phoenix. So far we have planted 2 apple trees and 1 plum tree. Our aim is to have a full orchard planted by next summer

Spring Daffodils

Next March, everyone should be greeted by golden daffodils around the trees in the paved areas of the school. Phoenix students have weeded and planted bulbs around all the trees in the paved areas in front of the school.





NATURE TABLE IN PHOENIX

We went on a nature walk to the Phoenix park and gathered leaves and seeds to make a nature table in the classroom. This will be added to month by month to show how the outdoors change from season to season.







CBC Kilkenny

January might have seemed like the longest, wettest month in history, but here at CBC Kilkenny it was a very bright and action packed one!

We were delighted to see our Transition Year students Hugh Power, Robert Cullen and Dara O'Sullivan showcase their project, The Battery Battle: Which Powers Better, rechargeable or disposable? at the Stripe Young Scientist and Technology Competition at the RDS.

A huge well done to the boys and to their teacher Ms Cotter for all their fantastic work and effort on this project. Congratulations are also due to LC 2025 student, Declan San Juan, who was awarded a Trinity Entrance Exhibition Award at TCD this month. Well done Declan, we are very proud of you.





Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week takes pride of place on the school calendar every January and this year was no exception. Our wonderful organising committee of staff and students created a varied and inclusive calendar of events across the week.

These events included visits to The Edmund Rice Centre, guest speakers such as Fr David Vard and Fr Damian Polly and our very popular Grandparents Day initiative.

Thank you to everyone involved for making this such an enjoyable experience for the whole school community.


Blessed
Edmund
Ignatius
Rice



Things were by no means quiet on the sporting field in January either despite the inclement weather. Our senior soccer team retained their Carlow-Kilkenny Championship crown with a thrilling penalty shoot-out victory over St Kieran's College in the final. They will now go on to seek a fourth Leinster Champions League title in the Spring and we wish them every success.

Congratulations are also due in athletics, where 5th Year student, James Kelsey, was crowned National U-20 Heptathlon Champion with a fantastic performance in the finals.





Away from the sports fields, our future stars of stage and screen wowed the audiences in a sell out run of Fame at The Watergate Theatre. We were simply blown away with the talent on display in this co-production with Loreto Secondary School Kilkenny.

Fulsome congratulations to all the students involved and to Ms Somers and Ms Cotter for giving so freely of their time, expertise and talents.





SLÁN LENÁR RÚNAÍ, EMER



Ar Déardaoin an 15ú Eanáir, tháinig muid le chéile le ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar Emer, ár rúnaí scoile iontach. Tá Emer imithe ar scor anois tar éis di dhá bhliain déag a chaitheamh ag croílár Choláiste Mhuire. Bhí daltaí, baill foirne agus tuismitheoirí i láthair ag an ócáid álainn seo le hómós a thabhairt do 'mhamaí na scoile'.

Labhair idir scoláirí, tuismitheoirí agus baill foirne go croíúil faoi Emer agus roinneadh go leor cuimhní cneasta. Ó bhí 2014 ann bhí Emer i bhfeighil oifig na scoile, ag cur fáilte roimh chách le miongháire ar a béal agus ag coinneáil gach rud ag imeacht go réidh.





Go raibh míle maith agat, a Emer, as do thiomantas agus do chineáltas iontach ó tháinig tú chuig ár bpobal scoile. Aireoimid thú go mór uainn. Guímid gach sonas agus áthas ort sa chéad chaibidil eile de do shaol!

COMÓRTAS STAIRE UILE-OILÉAIN



Tá ríméad orainn an scéal iontach a roinnt libh go bhfuil éacht mór bainte amach ag ár scoláire Cian Mac Craith Bl.3 sa Chomórtas Staire Uile-Oileáin. Fuair sé chéad áit sa tír iomlán i roinn Sraith Shóisearaí leis an tionscadal: "Stair Míleata Angla-Éireannach san 20ú haois trí shúile mo chlann" ag léiriú bua suntasach seo ar a ndíograis, a ndúthracht agus a gcuid oibre crua, agus léiríonn sé na hardchaighdeáin atá againn mar phobal scoile

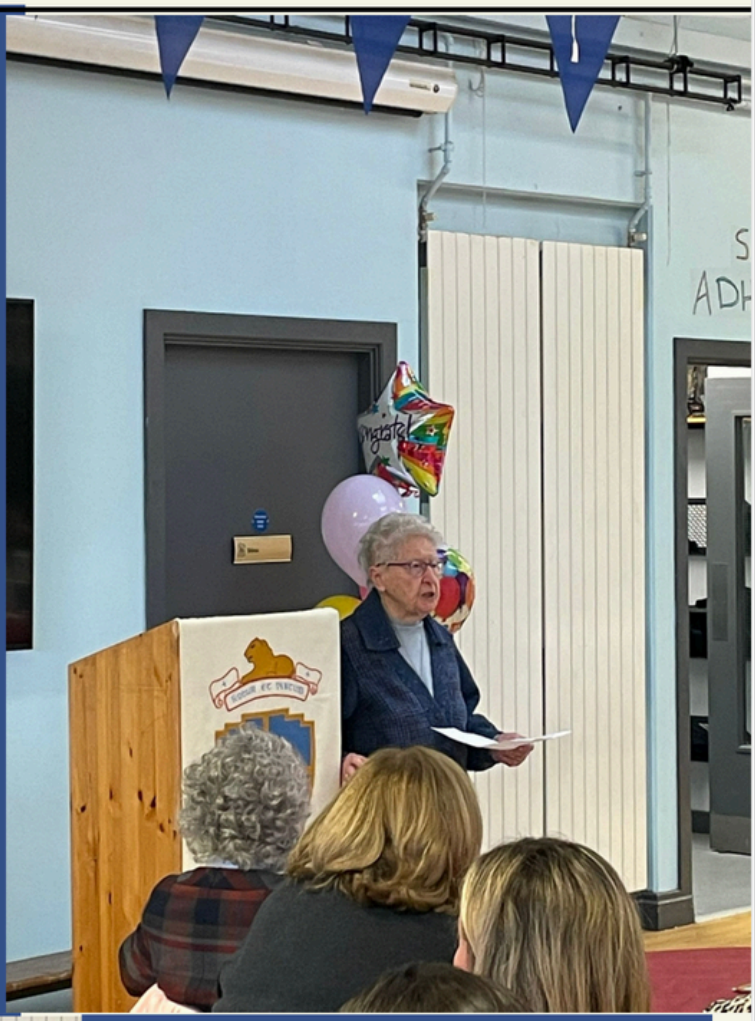




Is sampla den scoth é agus is inspioráid é dúinn go léir. Gabhaimid buíochas ó chroí leis an Máistir Mac Giolla Phádraig as a thacaíocht agus a threoir.
Comhghairdeas le gach duine a bhí páirteach sa ghnóthachtáil iontach seo.

CÉILIÚRADH - 70 BLIANA SAN OIDEACHAS CAITE AG AN TSIÚR MAIRÉAD

Bhí ócáid speisialta eagraithe againn le ceilúradh a dhéanamh ar an seachtó bliain atá caite i ngort an oideachais ag ár Séiplíneach Scoile, an tSiúr Mairéad.



Bhí Aifreann speisialta á cheiliúradh ag an Easpag Dónal de Róiste ag 12:00 pm i Séipéal na Fola Ró-Uaisle Cabrach ar Dé hAoine 30 Eanáir.



Tar éis an Aifrinn bhí béile mór céiliúradh ar ais i gColáiste Mhuire le múinteoirí, iar-mhúinteoirí agus daoine ón bpobal.

St Mary's Academy Carlow

Stripe Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2026

Our students showcased an impressive range of Technology and Science projects, demonstrating creativity, innovation, and real-world problem-solving.

🔹 Air Quality Device
Students: Muhammad Irshad, Siddharth Aryan Sharma, Emil Jaskula

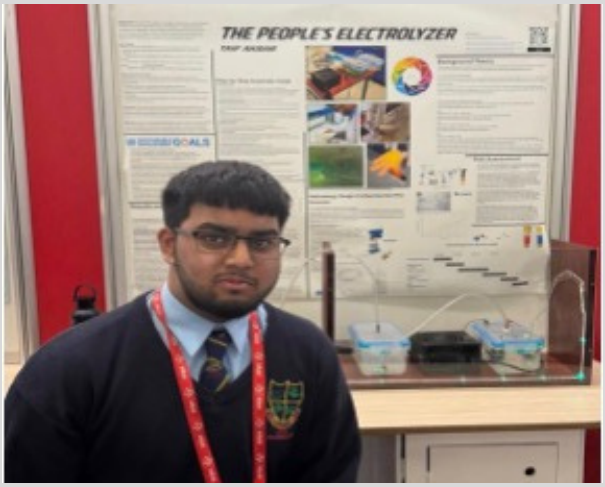
This device monitors indoor air quality by measuring CO_2 levels (ppm). Based on sensor readings and colour indicators, it mechanically opens a window to improve ventilation when air quality drops.



🔹 Watts at the Door
Students: T.J. Keating, Craig Power, Karol Szatkowski
Watts at the Door is an innovative energy-harvesting system that converts the motion of a door into electrical power, providing an eco-friendly and sustainable source of energy through everyday movement.



🔹 The People's Electrolyzer
Student: Taif Akbar
An ambitious open-source project designed to analyse and quantify the efficiency limits of small-scale hydrogen production, making clean energy research more accessible to all.



Green Schools Committee

The new year has begun on a very positive note for our CBS community, with the successful collection of 125kg of waste batteries at our school. This impressive achievement represents four months of dedicated effort by our Green Schools Committee, supported by the entire school community.

We are proud to support WEEE Ireland and their charity partner, LauraLynn Hospice, and to play our part in promoting environmental responsibility.




Identify
RECYCLE
WASTE BATTERIES



Global Goals SDG 7 Competition

The smiles say it all! Huge congratulations to our prize winners in the recent Global Goals SDG 7 Competition.

Well done to Nobie Ahmed (TY), winner of the Senior Category for 'Best Message', Swann Riviere (3rd Year), winner of the Junior Category for 'Most Creative', and Jayden Cullen, Tommy Keating, John McGrath, and Keegan Farrell (1st Year students), who won the Junior Category for 'Best Group'.

Congratulations to all involved for showcasing outstanding creativity and for raising awareness about the importance of affordable and clean energy within our school community.



Warm congratulations are extended to our 1st Year student Sean Carr and his U14 quiz team from the Graiguecullen area.

The team were honoured yesterday alongside other gold medal recipients from across the county and were presented with Certificates of Achievement by the Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council, in recognition of their dedication, ability and success at national level.
This achievement reflects the team's commitment and hard work, and we wish Sean and his teammates continued success in their future endeavours.



Congratulations to our twelve TY students that won the Impact Award at the recent Rubbish Film Festival held in the Visual theatre. Their powerful one-minute film on microplastics and the impact on human health truly deserved the award. The students scripted, filmed and edited the video themselves, thoughtfully linking the issue to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The festival displayed films created by 108 students from nine schools across Carlow, encouraging responsibility for the places we live, how we produce waste, and how we discard it. Led by Peter Baxter and Dave Sheehan from Create Schools, and part-funded by Carlow County Council, the programme educates and empowers young people. Through teamwork and problem-solving, students used their voices to inspire environmental action. Well done to all!!

Creating a Caring Community

Tree Planting

1st and 2nd Year Wood Technology students recently spent some time planting native Irish bare-root trees in our school's woodland area. Well done to all involved!









Soccer Tournament

This January CBS Charleville held a 1st and 2nd Year Soccer Tournament in aid of Cliona's Foundation. The event was played in an excellent spirit throughout, with strong participation, teamwork and sportsmanship. Well done to everyone who contributed to the organisation of the event and the support of such a worthwhile cause!









CBC Cork


Junior Debating
National Mace


Junior Debating
National Mace

It has been a remarkable year for CBC Debating, with students achieving outstanding success at regional, national and international level. The season began strongly on 18 October when Charlie Coakley and Sean Ahern were crowned champions of the UCD Literary and Historical Society National Mace, hosted by the UCD Literary and Historical Society. Their success in this respected senior competition was a significant early achievement.

Liam Canty and Mathew Hiras also achieved notable success across several competitions. On 15 October they secured first place at the Cork October League before going on to win the St. Aloysius College, Carrigtwohill Mace on 15 November. Their consistency continued into the New Year when they claimed the Coláiste Spioraid Naoimh Mace on 17 January, underlining their status as one of the leading teams on the circuit. Individual honours were also earned, with Killian McCarthy awarded Best Individual Speaker at the St. Aloysius College, Carrigtwohill Mace in recognition of his composure and analytical skill.

January proved particularly successful. On 20 January, four CBC teams competed in the Irish qualifiers for the Oxford Schools Debating Championships at the Institute of Education in Dublin. Seány McSweeney and Guan Hui Lin qualified in first place and will represent CBC at the Championships on 14 March at the University of Oxford. On 24 January, three CBC junior teams competed in the Munster Regional Competition, which consisted of three preliminary rounds and a final. Every CBC participant qualified for the National Final at University College Dublin in April, a notable achievement in itself. Rory McDonnell and Sam O'Farrell were crowned Munster Regional Champions, with Rory finishing Top of the Tab overall and receiving the Best First Year Debater Award.

The following day, 25 January, four CBC teams returned to the Institute of Education for the Cambridge Trials. Once again, Séany McSweeney and Guan Hui Lin qualified in first place and will represent CBC at the Cambridge Schools Debating Championships at the University of Cambridge. The breadth and consistency of these achievements reflect the dedication, preparation and ambition of CBC's debaters. From junior regional titles to qualification for Oxford and Cambridge, this has been a year of which the entire school community can be justly proud.

Update on the CBC Zambia Immersion Project

February 2026 marks the midpoint of our preparations and fundraising for the 2025-26 Zambia Immersion Project at CBC. These last five months have been extremely productive. Travelling students have been engaged in fundraising activities, attending preparatory workshops, and raising awareness of the situation and needs of the people in Mazabuka, Zambia.

Fundraising events thus far have been varied, but have reflected the diverse interests and skills of the travelling fourteen students. From Jazz concerts, dance classes, cookery demos, and coffee mornings to table quizzes and online raffles, students have engaged with their local communities and social circles in their fundraising attempts.

Within CBC the students have engaged in raising funds and awareness also; visiting classes, organising a darts tournament, bake sales, and arranging several competitions amongst students.

Travelling more than 8,000 km from Ireland to Zambia, to a culture very different from our own is likely to be challenging for Fifth Year students, particularly given the stark inequalities in wealth in Zambia, and the HIV/AIDS epidemic that currently affects roughly one million people there. Accordingly, in preparation for the trip, the fourteen travelling students have participated in three Global Citizenship Education (GCE) workshops. The workshops, organised by SERVE, have several purposes ranging from learning about Zambian culture and life to journaling strategies as a means of processing experiences while in Zambia. Helping students understand the need to share their life stories, values, and experiences with the people in Mazabuka is an important part of CBC's Zambia Immersion Project. This idea has permeated the workshops so far. In a similar vein, the GCE workshops have relayed the importance of bringing these stories back to Ireland and sharing them with the wider CBC community.

There are several more things in the pipeline for the fourteen travelling students over the coming months. Students will learn basic sign language in preparation for their visit to a special needs school in Mazabuka, students are collecting jerseys and sports gear to bring with them and give to students in the schools there. We will also get our trip itinerary from SERVE, which will provide us with details of the projects and activities we will engage with while over in Zambia. Additionally our main fundraising event, The Chaser, will take place at Vienna Woods in Cork on the 16th April.

In closing, when we selected the students that will travel to Zambia in June 2026, we felt that we had selected fourteen highly impressive young candidates. Based on their maturity, their willingness to engage thoroughly with all activities related to the Immersion Project, and the leadership skills they are demonstrating, each of us teachers feel vindicated in our choices.

Background of CBC's Zambia Immersion Project

CBC's Zambia Immersion Project is a nine-month long project consisting of fundraising followed by a two week trip to Mazabuka in Zambia. Under the auspices of SERVE, an Irish development and volunteering organisation based in Cork, fourteen students and three teachers are set to travel this June.

This current trip marks the third time that CBC students and teachers have made the journey under the SERVE umbrella. Whilst in Zambia students will work on improving facilities in and around local schools. They will work on banana plantations, teach in one of the local schools, and meet local students. In previous years students have also taken it upon themselves to organise several soccer matches and Sports Days with students in Mazabuka. We expect that CBC will have a similar positive impact during the upcoming trip in June 2026.



Catholic Schools Week 2026

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated in CBC from 18th to the 24th January. The theme for this year was 'Catholic Schools: Normal Lives, Called to Holiness'. A reflection was delivered to the student body each morning by the College Chaplain, Mr. Simon Kelliher. These 'Thoughts for the Day' encouraged pupils to ponder their lives, and encouraged them to make CBC a more spiritual, welcoming and loving Catholic community.
Prayer services were held in the School Oratory during the week by the Religion Department.
A Fifth Year Mass was celebrated by Fr. John O Donovan in St. Patrick's Church and attended by one hundred and fifty pupils and their teachers in honour of Catholic Schools Week.



Gaelbhratach

This year saw the launch of the Gaelbhratach scheme in CBC.This is a national Irish-language programme that encourages schools to increase their daily use of Gaeilge in fun and meaningful ways. Coordinated by Gael Linn, the scheme supports students and teachers in creating an Irish-speaking atmosphere through a wide range of events. Schools work towards earning the Gaelbhratach flag, which recognises their commitment to promoting spoken Irish beyond the classroom. The initiative empowers young people to take ownership of their language, fostering pride, confidence, and a positive Irish-language culture within the school community. Since its launch in September, students from 1st to 6th year have been taking part in events which promote Gaeilge in our school. Events include Tae agus Plé, Seanfhocail agus Seacláid, Scannánaíocht naGaeilge, comórtais Charta naNollag and many more. We have a fantastic Coistena Gaeilge comprised of 22 students who engage with students and staff to implement this inititiave. They also created our beautiful motto of Cairdeas Bród Cultúr which is displayed around the school. We are looking forward to many more enjoyable events in 2026. Beir bua agus Beannacht!



Past Pupils Selected for Ireland U20 Six Nations Squad

Congratulations to past pupils Charlie O'Shea and Christopher Barrett who were recently selected to the Ireland U20 Six Nations squad.
Both Charlie and Chris featured in Ireland's impressive 30-27 victory over Italy in the Six Nations Championship.
We wish them continued success with the Irish U20 squad.





Thirteen students from First Year to Fifth Year represented Christian Brothers College, Cork at the Stripe Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2026.

Throughout the exhibition, the students were exemplary ambassadors for the College, demonstrating integrity, strong teamwork and a clear commitment to excellence in how they presented their work and supported one another. Their projects attracted acknowledgement from the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, the Tánaiste, Simon Harris, and Dr Norah Patten, among others.







First Year students Ben Dwyer, Daragh O'Mullane and Oisín Sheehan won first place in the Junior Chemical, Physical & Mathematical with a project investigating how an automatic irrigation system can improve crop production.

The College is extremely proud of all 13 students for the dedication, curiosity and hard work they brought to the exhibition.

Ardscoil na Mara Tramore



Promoting Gospel Based Values, Nuturing Faith and Christian Spirituality.

Students from our Student Council attended a Prayer Service in the Edmund Rice Centre Waterford as part of our celebration to mark Catholic Schools Week 2026. The Prayer Service was also attended by student council and JP 11 Students from Waterpark College and Mt Sion Secondary School.

The theme of the Prayer Service was Community and Identity, we celebrated in word and song. The Mt Sion Choir added beautifully to our celebration and enriched our reflective experience. The Group had an opportunity to pray at the Tomb of Blessed Edmund Rice and reflect on the importance of being part of his great mission of education.

Some of our Second Years had a visit to the Church of the Holy Cross in Tramore strengthening our bonds with school and parish. They visited the crib, lit candles and toured the important places in the Church such as the Stations of the Cross and the lovely Tapestry which hangs in the sanctuary and recalls the wonderful works of God among the people of the Old Testament in preparation for the coming of Jesus. Thanks to Mrs Lonergan for organising this visit for our students.

Students learned about God promising a Messiah to his people, someone who would lead them out of darkness into His own wonderful light.



Our School Community paused and reflected at several moments during the week on this years theme: Ordinary Lives, called to holiness.

To mark the Feast of St Brigid, Secondary Patron of Ireland, students learned how to make St Brigid's Crosses. They made them in class and in our Outdoor Classroom.





Our Principal, Mr Cawley is pictured with our Environmental Leadership Team who were teaching our Wellbeing classes how to make St Brigid's Crossess.
Excelling in Teaching and Learning.



Congratulations are extended to TY student Doireann Ní Chuilleanáin who has received a certificate from the Department of Education and Youth. Doireann's essay in her Junior Cycle Irish Exam, was one of four best written in the country at the Higher Level Examination in 2025. Congratulations to her teacher also, Ms Angeline Westnott and her mother Aoife who also teaches in our school.

Literacy Committee

The Ardscoil na Mara Literacy Committee has been busy since the start of the academic year with this year's literacy focus across the school. Displays have been put up on site as well as on the screens around the entire building. A number of initiatives have taken place across the curricula which target the entire student body in one coordinated endeavour. From 1st to 6th year, students have been revising in a number of areas and improving their literacy skills which are a cornerstone of their learning. Staff and students have been learning and reflecting on the building blocks that are essential when preparing students for pre exams, summer exams or simply class tests. The committee has also recruited a number of diligent TY students who step into the role of the teacher and take parts of a 1st year English class and deliver a literacy focused lesson which is working really well. Recently class groups have worked on homophones and this week on nouns.

More Literacy news!

The hardworking Ardscoil na Mara library committee had a book-themed outing to Waterford last week with head librarian, Ms O'Brien.

Following a survey of all students, a selection of brand new books were purchased for the school library, and some book chat was had over hot chocolate.

The library in Lady Lane was their next stop, to see how a professional library is curated, designed and run.

Thanks to The Book Centre and Waterford Library for welcoming us so warmly, and for inspiring us with great ideas for our own library.

The Library Committee are pictured with our Head Librarian and English teacher Ms. Elaine O' Brien.



Creating a caring Community and supporting partnership.

Our Tidy Towns Community Outreach have been busy building walls, and keeping our town clean and tidy. It is fantastic to see their high level of commitment.
The students have been building a wall at the Tidy Towns offices, general waste pick up and renovating the fairy garden. They have big plans this term which includes their Greenhouse project where students are hoping that this project would eliminate the need for Tidy Towns to buy plants in supervalu.

Students will grow their own plants and plant them around Tramore. The group are also in the process of installing a rainwater gutter at Tidy Towns main shed, which will work as a rainwater collection system running directly into Tidy Towns tank which will be a sustainable water collection daily for the Tidy Town team.
The group will also be meeting with a Tree Specialist for a tour at the end of this month and plan to use this knowledge to help Tidy Towns in the completion of Tramore Nature Trail.





A School Community's Voice in Shaping the Future of Education

The Irish Convention on Education represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shape the future of Ireland's education system. It invites children and young people, parents, educators, and the wider community to reflect on what education should look like — not just for today, but for decades to come.

As a school community, we believe it is vital that those who experience education every day have a strong and meaningful voice in this national conversation. For this reason, our school was proud to submit a collective response to the Convention, informed by the experiences, hopes, and insights of our students.

Our submission was shaped through consultation and discussion across a group of 60 randomly selected students in 5th and 6th year. The session was facilitated by our 6th year Prefects. Pupils were encouraged to share their views on what helps them learn best, what challenges they face, and what school should prepare them for in the future. This collaborative approach ensured that our submission reflects the voice of our students. It was a wonderful opportunity to inspire transformational leadership among our students.

The Convention on Education offers Ireland a rare chance to take a long-term, joined-up approach to education reform. Our school's submission reflects a belief that education should be inclusive, forward-looking, and rooted in the real experiences of those who learn in schools every day.

We are proud to have contributed to this important national conversation and hope that the voices of our community — especially our young people — will help shape an education system that is fairer, more responsive and fit for the future.


Convention on
Education

Oatlands Primary School

Leinster Swimming Champions

Congratulations to three of our students who competed admirably in the Leinster Minor School Championships at the weekend, and have all qualified for individual events in their age groups for the Irish Minor Schools Championships 2026 in March. We are incredibly proud of Ellie in 4th class, Leah and Annabelle in 6th class. Go team!



St Brigid's Day Celebrations

This February we celebrate St. Brigid, one of our important patron saints, with beautiful artworks around the school. We remember the story of St Brigid's life, and her care for the sick and the poor people in her community. This is still a great example of helping others in our daily lives. She also "brings the spring" according to our traditional calendar, and as the song says!





As professor Wycherly of Maynooth College mentioned in her recent article for the RTE news, "Brigid, a Leinster woman, worked hard to build an inclusive church and founded a community.

In doing so she captured the imagination of a nation, creating a legacy that has lasted 1500 years" We can see this echoed in the art that has been created by our students!





Volleyball Champions!

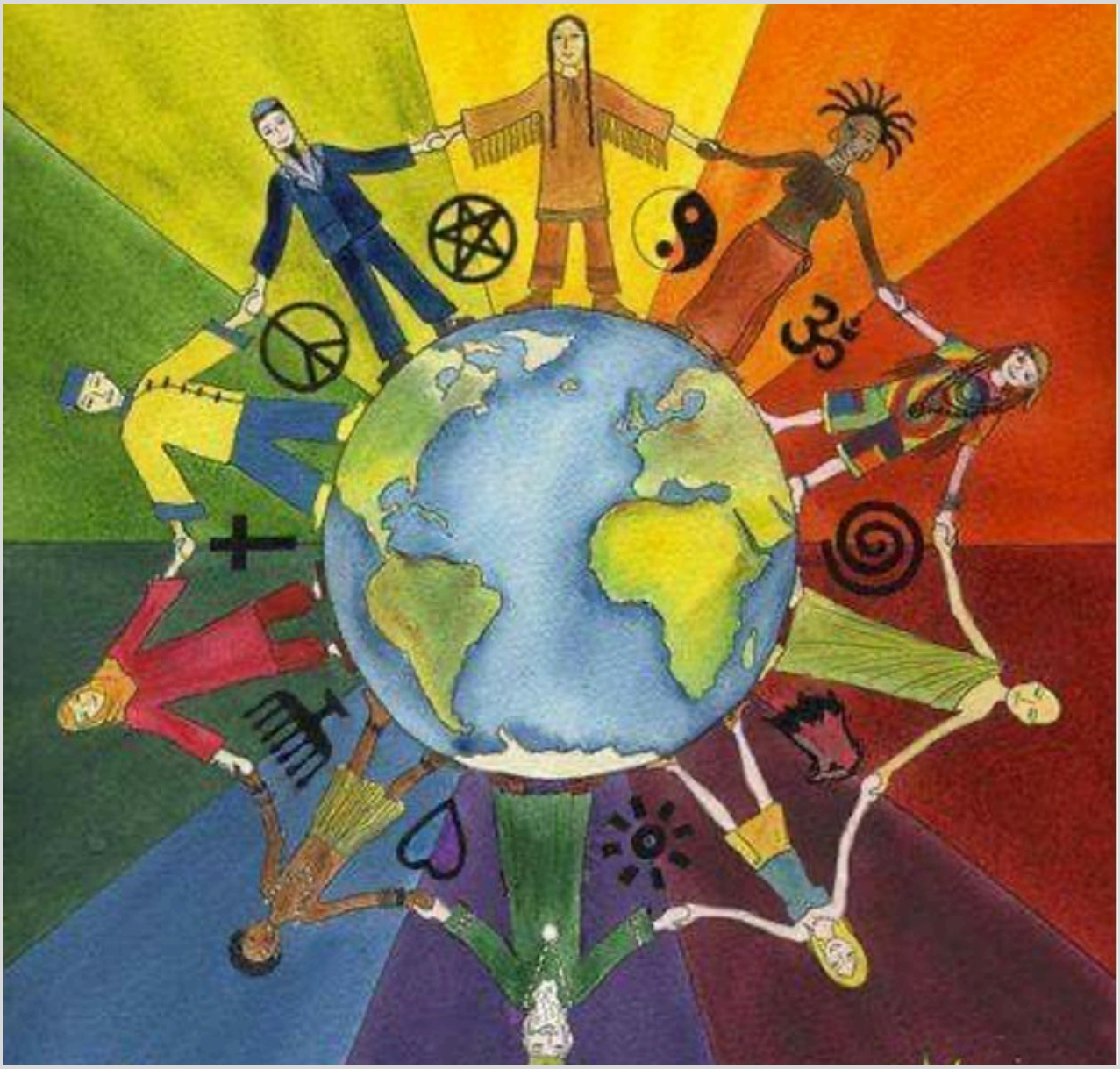
Congratulations to our Volleyball teams who competed on Tuesday in the National Indoor Arena. Both teams did extremely well and the mixed team got through to the NATIONAL FINAL, which will be held in University Limerick Sports Arena on Friday, March 20th. Thank you to their coaches Miriam and Eva, and to Mr. Kelleher and Ms. Lynch.



Artist of the Month : Anne Madden

This month we focus on the work of prolific artist Anne Madden, whose work forms part of the collections at the Hugh Lane Gallery and IMMA. They are also available to view online.
Her work elevates themes of nature to a great crescendo of colour, and has a strong focus on vibrant hues and contrasting tones. This vibrancy makes her works a wonderful artist to focus on in the Classroom. They can be used as an impetus for lessons at any class level. We hope students will enjoy these artworks, which can be a catalyst for collage, painting, multimedia and clay workshops in class. .





School Council : Leading Assembly

A special thanks to the school council for leading both our junior and senior assembly each Friday this academic year, with an opening prayer.

Their reflections and prayers each Friday remind us of the ethos of our school – which is based on gratitude and kindness. Thank you to Ms McDonagh for putting this great idea forward. The students are delighted to speak to their colleagues and friends each week! This week Enda and Mikaal handed out medals to the winners of our art competition, and they reminded us in their reflection, to be thankful that we live in a peaceful country. We prayed for those in war torn places, and wished for peace.



Council Planting Project

Council students will plant an area of ground near our pitches with beautiful flowers. Students look forward to this in the coming weeks and months. They look forward to planning this project with Ms. McDonagh, our school principal. Watch that space!.



Oatlands School Art Competition

This year during Catholic Schools Week, the school council brainstormed together and came up with three topics to choose from, under the headings : 'caring for nature in our daily lives', 'helping others in our daily lives' and 'kindness to our friends every day'. Each class chose their topic. There was a winner in each class and then the overall winner was chosen by Ms O'Connell and Ms Mc Donagh. Council chose themes that are applicable to those of all faiths and none, in keeping with our spirit of inclusion and equality. In our multi - faith context we continue to respect and value everyone equally. This was a great opportunity for the students to all come up with an art design, to get their own important message across.



The passionate and heartfelt artistic responses were a testament to the students' awareness of world issues. Many teachers have displayed them in class or on the corridors, and some will be displayed in the assembly hall for everyone to see. Children described the challenges of mother earth in a wise, insightful and sensitive way. They reminded us of the core values of us all as a community, and as citizens of this planet.




CARE FOR NATURE


TAKE CARE OF EARTH


TAKE CARE OF NATURE

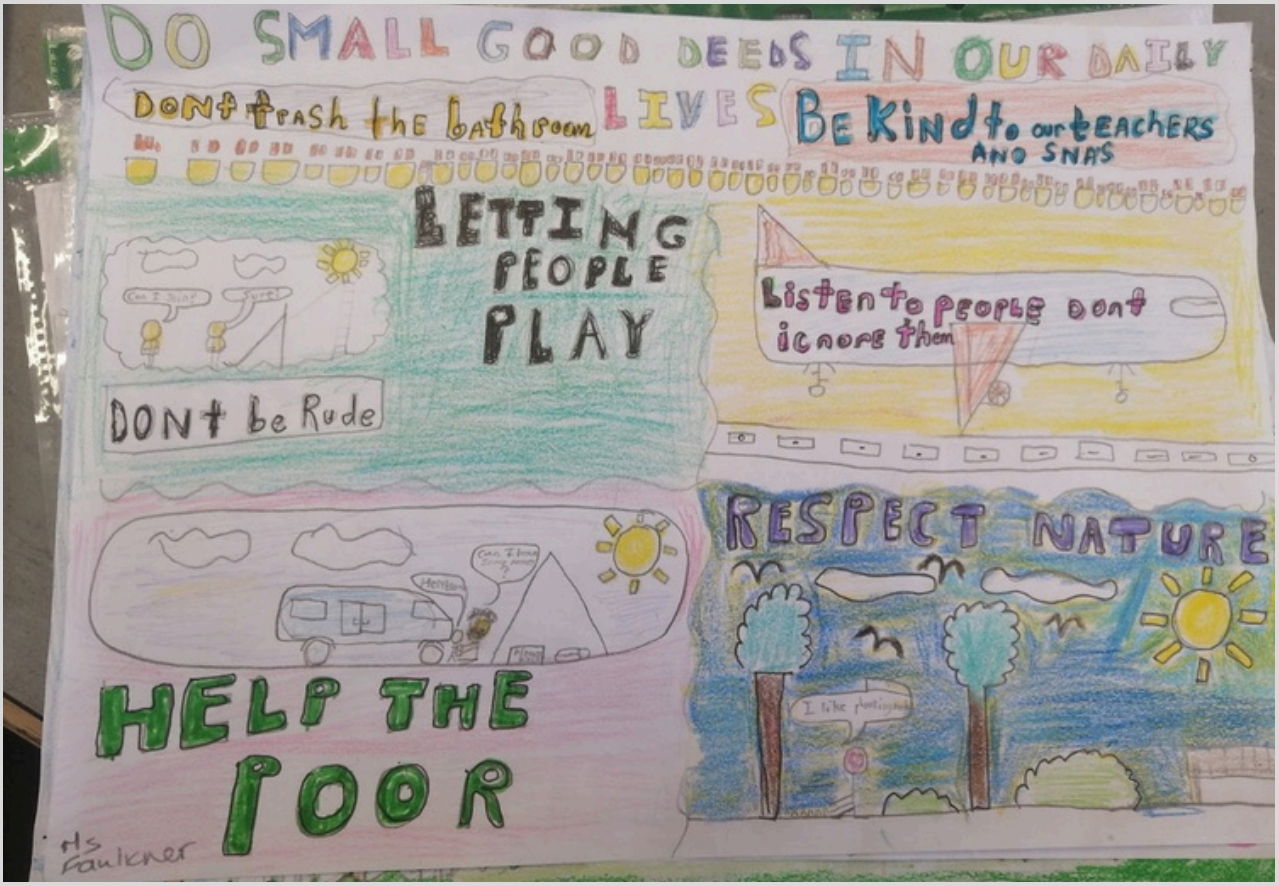

Spring is here


Care
For
Nature
RECYCLE
PLANT A TREE
GROW A FLOWER
Lets give moter
Earth Pack her
Power
SAVE THE BIRDS!
CARE FOR NATURE


reduce reuse recycle
Everyone need to keep the world clean or else it will only be dust and water sources will be blocked and animals and plants could be dead out so its very important to keep the world clean and natural.
Save animals
me feeding fish
I am hungry
me to
Donst cut trees!
stop Donst ok cut trees
Grow Plants.
lets grow plants.
Save energy.
ok lets use it a little bit
Save water
Save water
ok
Stop useing to much water
Antartic
donst litter the world
Stop donst ok litter
Kanishk







Students often say it best through art, and here we can see their strong messages shining through! Thanks to all the teachers who gave their time to these projects.

We look forward to springtime being more apparent in the near future. These flowers created by our students were one way of adding colour to our surroundings!





CER Cork

Students Shine at National Drama Competition Auditions

Students took part in the National Drama Competition auditions held in Briery Gap, Macroom, Co. Cork. They had a fantastic experience and thoroughly enjoyed watching all of the performances. Everyone is now eagerly awaiting the results and hoping to progress to the next stage of the competition.









A Transition Year Experience to Remember in New York City

A group of 25 Transition Year students, accompanied by three teachers and one parent, recently enjoyed an unforgettable educational trip to New York City, an experience rich in culture, learning and shared adventure.

From the moment they arrived, students immersed themselves in everything the city had to offer. Iconic landmarks came thick and fast: breathtaking views from The Edge, a peaceful walk through Central Park, and the awe-inspiring collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The group crossed the historic Brooklyn Bridge, explored Wall Street, and took in the atmosphere of Fifth Avenue, experiencing first-hand the scale, diversity and energy of one of the world's most influential cities.

A particular highlight for many was attending an NBA game at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, where they watched the New York Nets take on the Boston Celtics. For students, seeing elite athletes perform at the highest level in such an iconic venue was both exciting and inspiring.

Of course, no trip to New York would be complete without sampling its famous food culture. Students thoroughly enjoyed discovering American favourites, with Raising Cane's, Popeyes, Wendy's, Shake Shack and Dunkin' Donuts proving extremely popular.

A special mention must go to Target, which quickly became a firm favourite and a source of great excitement (and souvenirs!) for many.

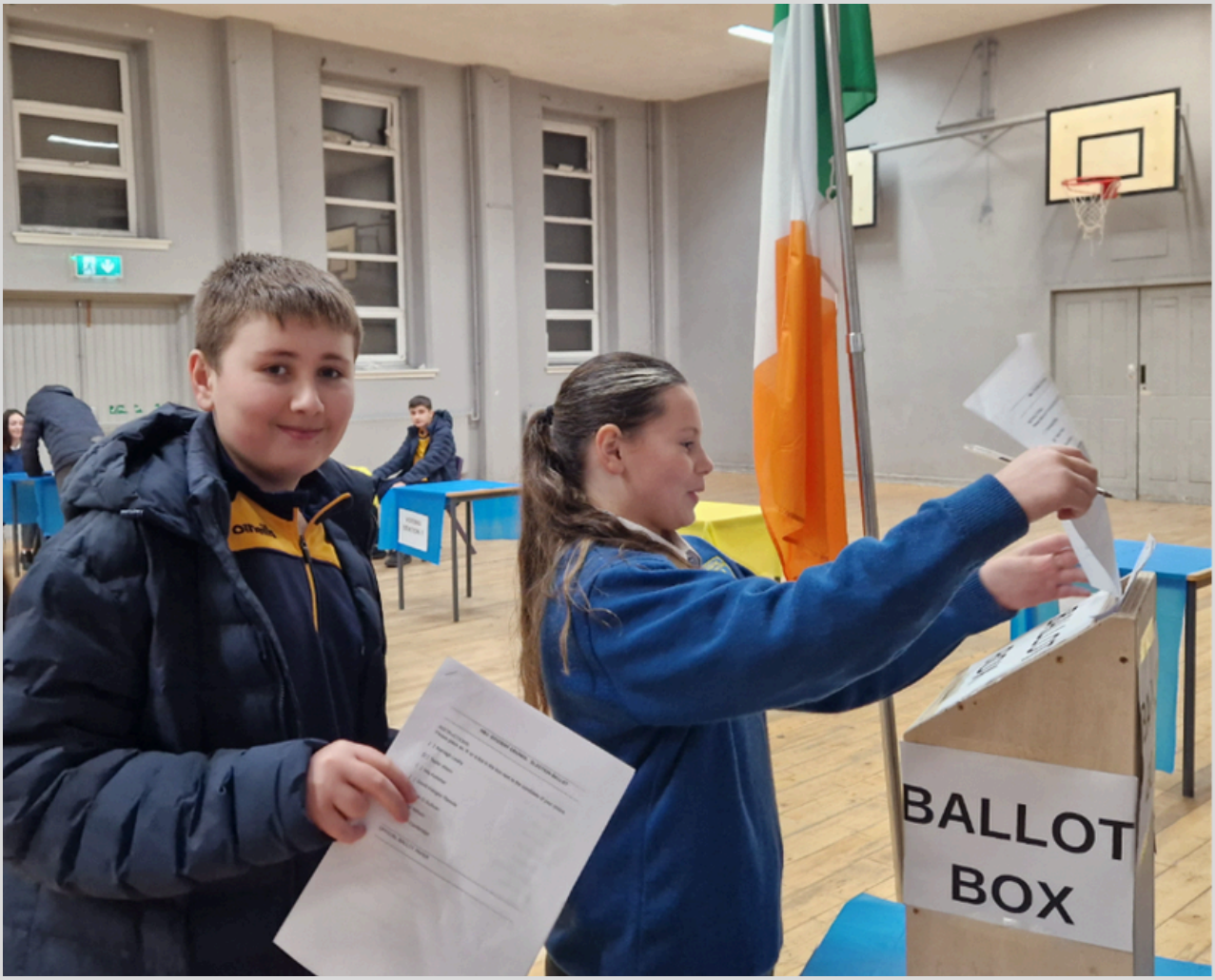
The trip also provided unexpected moments that required flexibility and resilience. Changes to travel plans meant the group spent longer together than originally planned, turning the journey into an even richer Transition Year experience. Throughout, students demonstrated maturity, cooperation and care for one another, supporting both peers and staff with positivity and good humour.

They even made national headlines as a result. Making the trip one they surely won't forget in a hurry.



Student Council Elections: Student Voice in Action

Recently, our annual Student Council elections took place, giving students from all year groups the opportunity to be nominated for the Student Council, Green Schools Committee, Amber Flag Committee, and ERST Committee.
All candidates created campaign posters and visited their class groups to share their ideas, plans, and goals in order to gain support. It was fantastic to see so many students share their opinions and use their voices in a positive way.
On election day, students experienced the democratic process first-hand by casting their votes using a ballot box. The entire process was student-led, making it an engaging and meaningful experience for everyone involved. It was inspiring to see so many of our future leaders in action, and we look forward to working with our newly elected representatives throughout the year.


BALLOT
BOX


Coláiste Éa
Founded at
Sullivan's Qua
in 1828


VOTING
STUDENT COUNCIL


VOTING


Co-Educational
School


BOX


BALLOT
BOX
BALLOT
BOX

Woodbrook College Bray



In Tone and Talent
Woodbrook College in The Bray Schools Exhibition

Woodbrook College was well represented in the Bray Schools Exhibition recently. This impressive exhibition was organised by the Signal Arts Centre and was a wonderful celebration of young artistic talent from across the local area. Schools throughout Bray were invited to take part by submitting tonal artworks of any subject, in any medium, and in sizes up to A3. The open brief encouraged creativity while allowing students to explore tone, contrast, and atmosphere in their own unique ways.

From a wide and impressive range of submissions, Woodbrook College Art teachers, Mr. Conor Horgan and Mr. Niall O'Loughlin, carefully selected 32 pieces for display.

The final exhibition represented students from all year groups, highlighting both emerging and more experienced young artists. A strong number of works came from students who study Art as part of their curriculum, as well as enthusiastic members of the school Art Club.
The overall standard of work on display was excellent, reflecting the dedication, skill, and imagination of the students involved. Congratulations and sincere thanks to all the students who contributed their artwork and helped make the exhibition such a success.






Woodbrook
College

Rice College Westport



English outing for Rice College Westport

Our 3rd Year students had a lovely outing to the Dean Crowe Theatre, Athlone to watch the stage production of 'The Merchant of Venice'.
A lovely outing with a great group of students. Our 3rd Year Students are well-prepared for the Shakespearean component of the Junior Cycle English examination.

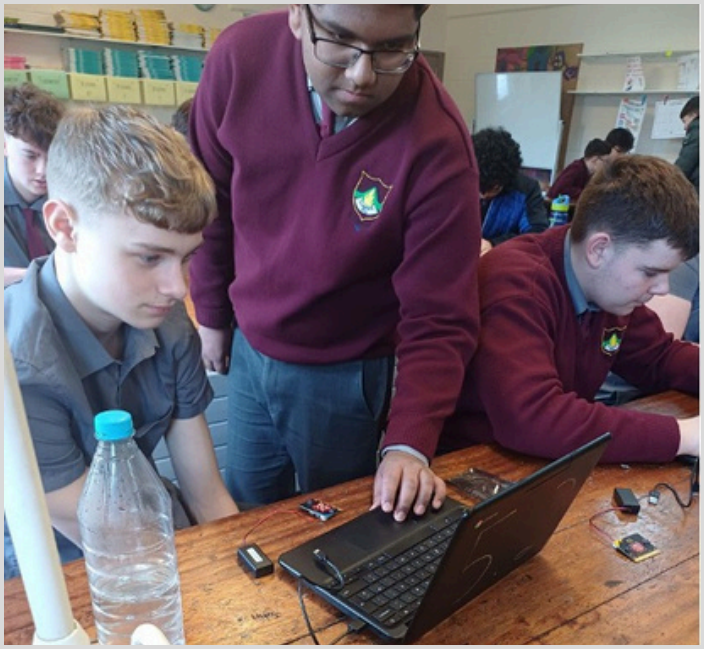
STEM in Rice College Westport

STEM is continuing to grow as an exciting and dynamic part of learning in our school, giving students opportunities to experiment, explore, and ignite their curiosity. Every Tuesday at lunchtime, students gather to take part in hands-on STEM activities that encourage creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving.



Recently, TY STEM students have been busy exploring the world of coding using micro:bits. Through practical, student-led learning, they designed and programmed their own interactive Rock–Paper–Scissors game. This project allowed them to combine imagination with real coding skills, while also developing logical thinking and perseverance.





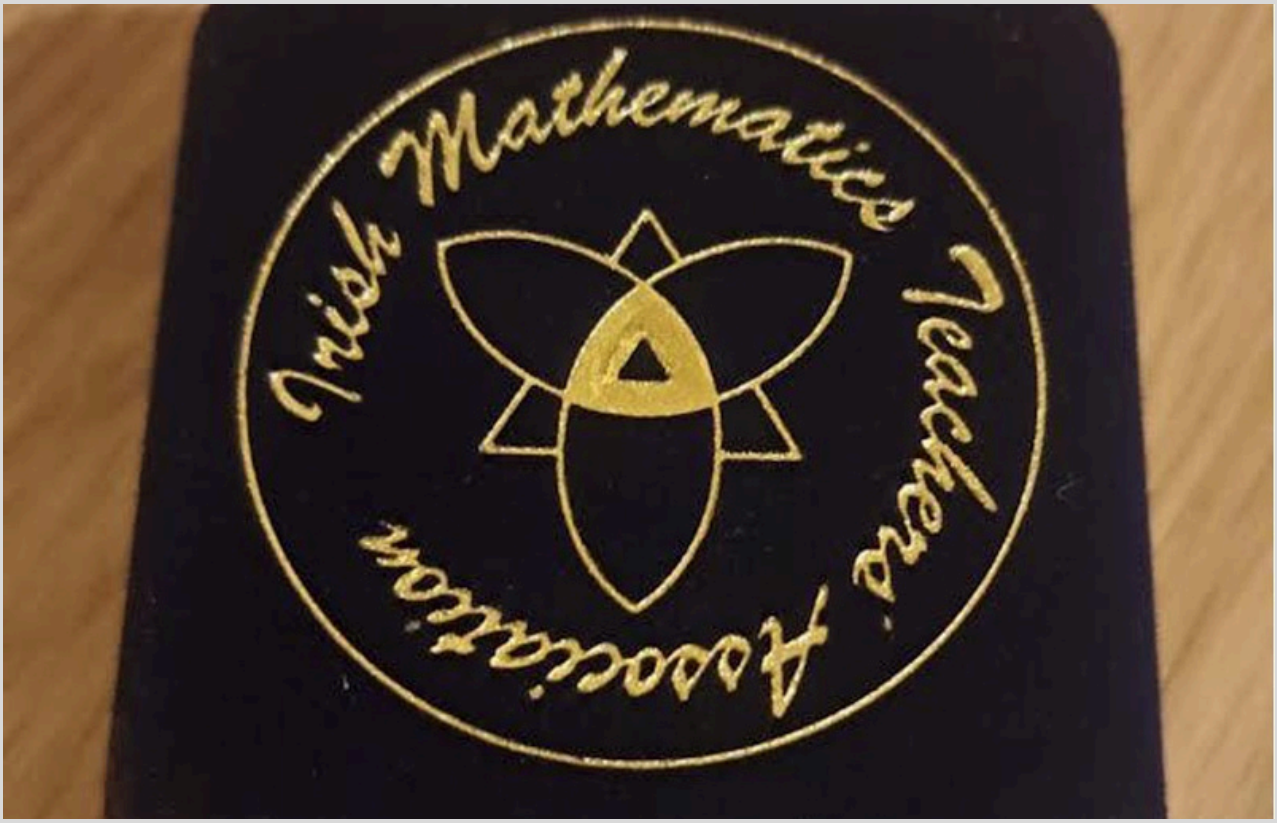
It was fantastic to see students testing, debugging, and improving their programs as they worked. The sense of curiosity and determination in the room highlighted how STEM learning helps build confidence, resilience, and innovation.

Well done to all students involved for their enthusiasm and hard work. We look forward to seeing even more creativity and discovery in future STEM sessions.



Maths in Rice College Westport

Our 1st year students participated in the Irish Maths Teachers Association quiz recently. The IMTA awarded the top results in the country with a medal. We were delighted to receive the news that one of those students is a Rice College student.
Well done to Siobhán Conran. We are very proud of Siobhan and she was delighted to receive the medal and certificate.





Film Studies in Rice College Westport

Our Film Studies students have been busy putting together another film using the picturesque views of Westport. Congratulations to our students who made a short film "Falling Forever", which has been selected for Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year 2026 Regional Final.







Coláiste Mhichíl Limerick



New School Building Announcement

We are delighted to share the wonderful news that Coláiste Mhichíl is one of 17 post-primary schools nationwide whose Large-Scale Building Projects have been prioritised for advancement. This significant milestone marks an exciting new chapter in the continued growth and development of our school community.

The €32 million state-of-the-art building project will now proceed at pace, with the tendering process for construction set to begin. The project will deliver modern, high-quality facilities designed to enhance teaching and learning across all subject areas. The new development will provide improved classroom spaces, specialist rooms, and upgraded amenities that will support a broad and dynamic curriculum. It will also ensure that our students benefit from an environment that is inclusive, innovative and fit for purpose for many years to come.

Sports News

Well done to Dylan Hartney, who proudly represented the school at the North Munster Schools Cross Country in Ennis. Dylan delivered an outstanding performance on the day and has successfully qualified for the upcoming Munster Schools Cross Country. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to his dedication and hard work in training. We wish him every success in the next stage of the competition. Thank you to his running coach Ms Moroney.





Our LCA1 students enjoyed a fun-filled and active Sports Day at the LCFE Killmallock Campus last month. The day was packed with a variety of activities that encouraged teamwork, participation and plenty of laughter.

Meanwhile, our 1st Year soccer team had a fantastic day in Thomond, where they secured an impressive victory in their final Munster group game. The team displayed great determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the match. We are extremely proud of their achievement and the positive way they represented the school. Thank you to their soccer coaches Mr Waters, Mr Woulfe and Mr Healy.





TY Hunt Museum Visit

The Transition Year students recently enjoyed an engaging and enriching visit to The Hunt Museum. The guided tour offered them a unique opportunity to explore everything from ancient civilisations to more modern pieces, encouraging them to think critically about how art and objects reflect the societies in which they were created. A particular highlight of the visit was the chance to see original works by renowned artists, as well as rare historical items that sparked lively discussion among the group. Thank you to Ms Browne for organising the trip.





Biology Revision in UL

Our Leaving Certificate Biology and Physics students recently enjoyed a highly beneficial Experiment Revision Day at the Health Science Labs in the University of Limerick. The visit provided a valuable opportunity for students to revise key mandatory experiments under expert guidance, strengthening both their understanding of scientific concepts and their confidence in laboratory techniques. Students engaged enthusiastically with the activities and asked insightful questions, making the most of this excellent learning opportunity. Thank you to Mr Rowan and Ms Casey for accompanying the students.





O'Connell Secondary School Dublin



We are delighted to be again a part of the AIG Inner City Golfer programme. The aim of the project is to introduce golf to teenagers in the inner city. Traditionally, golf in the inner city has been associated with the middle classes.
Through the NEIC initiative, sport has played a huge role in the social development of the area. In May 2024, AIG approached the school through our ex- Home, School and Community Liaison Coordinator, Tom Farrelly, and the first steps of this exciting journey were taken. The aim of the programme is to identify a student with interest but little or no experience in golf and immerse them in the sport

Our first participant was a then-sixth-year student, Adam Duffy. Adam is a very keen sportsman who excels in Gaelic football, hurling and soccer. His hurling ability has already paid huge dividends in the programme, with golf coaches from various participating clubs commenting on his swing, strength and natural ability for the game.

McGuirk's Golf in Blanchardstown have very kindly sponsored Adam with the required clothing and shoes for the course and have also provided him with a tailor-made set of golf clubs.
Adam's journey can be followed on AIG's social media platforms — YouTube, Facebook and Instagram — and we look forward to seeing his continued progress in the months ahead.

The programme has returned again this year and the OCS participant is 5th year student Bradley Flynn Hart. Bradley has completed 4 weeks of the programme so far, and he is returning to complete the remaining 4 weeks after February mid-term (and when the weather improves!). His journey will be on our school social media platforms for anyone interested in tuning in.





Snooker

We have been incredibly lucky with the acquisition of two full size snooker tables in the school. Snooker is a game that is stoking a lot of interest with the students, not seen since the 1980s snooker-loopy phase!!

We are extremely lucky to have a snooker champion in our presence too. Oscar Ellison-Gibbons in third year has recently represented Ireland in a World Championships. Oscar was one of our first students to enroll in our ASD class when it was launched 2 years ago.

Oscar has a natural gift for the game and plays regularly at lunchtime. He has been the catalyst behind the Snooker Club in the school which meets at lunchtime and after school.

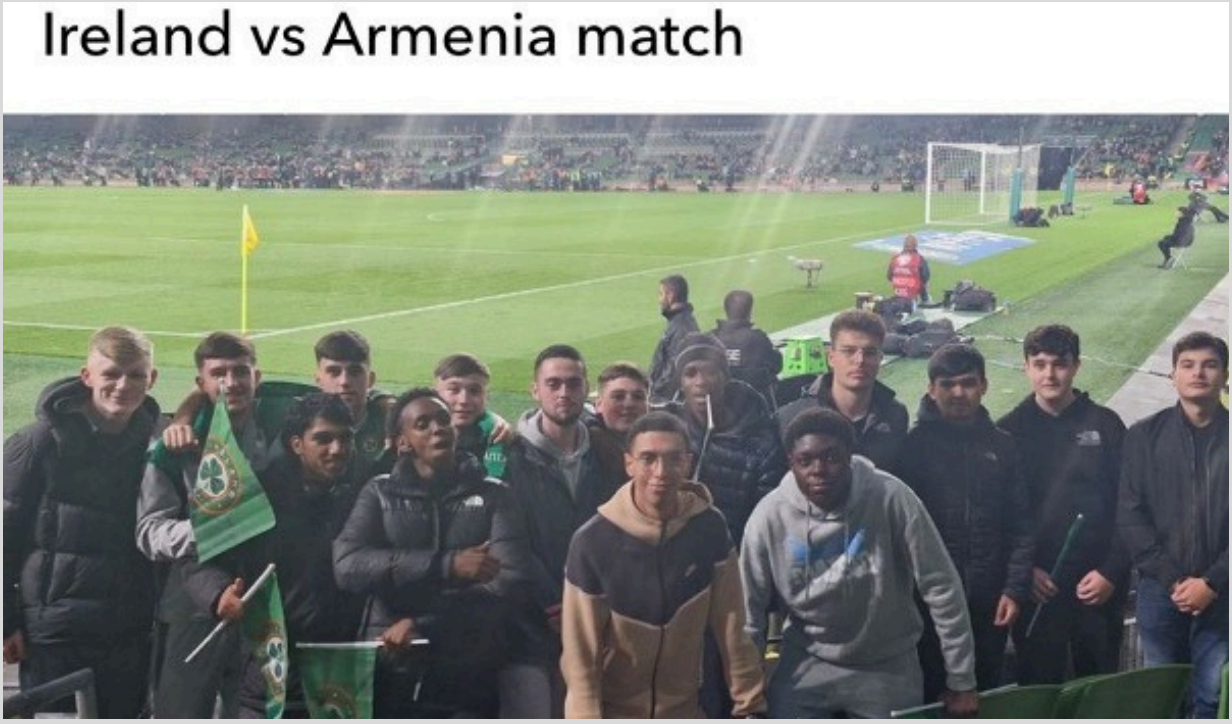
Through Oscar's mum, Sandra, who is a Parents' Association Representative, Snooker & Billiards Ireland came to OCS with 4 competition-pool-tables to give the boys some lessons in the game.

We are starting an in-school competition after February mid-term, and hoping to extend the competitive invitation out to other ERST schools after Easter break.

If any schools in ERST are interested in competing please email tomfarrelly@oconnellschool.ie







OCS at the Aviva…

Last October a number of our students, along with teachers Mr Costello, Mr de Souza and principal Mr Newell, attended the Ireland vs Armenia match in the Aviva on a cold, wet, dark night. The game was in line with the weather for the most part, but a single goal changed the dynamic and set up a huge November for Ireland (which was to have a huge OCS influence!!)



Troy to the world, the angels sang!!

We had a whirlwind week in OCS last November as Ireland pushed for World Cup qualification, in what seemed like an impossible task.

First up was hot favourites of group leaders Portugal, led by 5 time Balon D'ór winner Cristiano Ronaldo. All eyes were on CR7 but it was our past pupil Troy Parrott who tore up the script and banged in a brace to lead us to an incredible victory and set up a mouth-watering, if not nerve wracking, final group game against Hungary.

As we all know by now, we didn't start as planned but again Troy defied all odds and criticisms and got us back into the game before delivering the most uplifting goal in over twenty years of Irish football as he completed his hat-trick and the game winning goal with seconds to go.

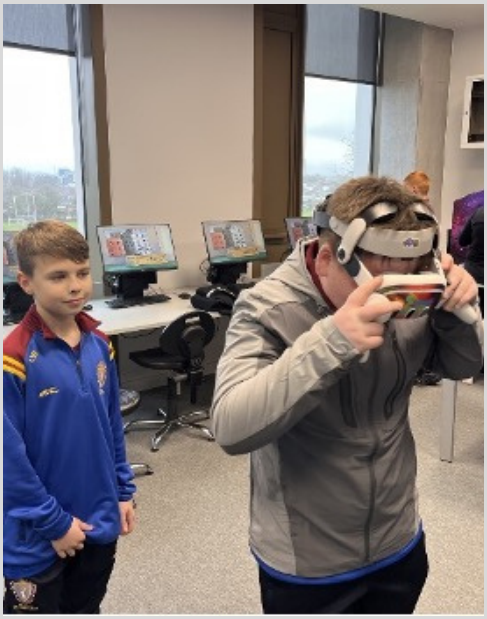
OCS was awash with media the following day with RTE, virgin media news and a number of newspapers coming in and reflecting on this historic moment with our staff and students (2 of whom are Troy's cousins!)

We hope Troy can deliver again in March as we face Czechia in the semi-final and hopefully Denmark or North Macedonia in the play-off final and bring us to a World Cup.

Watch this space!

Virtual Reality
OCS Invests in Virtual Reality to Transform Classroom Learning

OCS is taking an exciting step forward in digital education with the development of a new Virtual Reality (VR) Headset Lab, made possible through recently secured STEM funding through local charity partner The Liffey Trust. Thanks in particular to Fergal Madden of the Liffey Trust for liasing with ex-HSCL Tom Farrelly in getting the funding across the line.





Work on the state-of-the-art VR lab will begin shortly after Easter, following the completion of the school's second ASD unit. This innovative space will provide students with immersive, hands-on learning experiences designed to deepen understanding and engagement across a range of subjects.

The primary focus of the VR lab is to enhance STEM education. Through interactive simulations and virtual environments, students will gain a clearer understanding of complex scientific concepts, engineering principles, mathematical applications and technological processes. By bringing abstract ideas to life, VR technology will allow students to experience learning in a dynamic and practical way.

However, the impact of the VR lab will extend well beyond STEM subjects.
In Geography, students will embark on virtual field trips to explore landscapes, ecosystems and global environments from the classroom. History lessons will be transformed as students "travel back in time" to experience key historical events and settings. Modern Foreign Language classes will benefit from immersive cultural experiences, enabling students to explore countries where the target language is spoken without leaving the school building.

The technology will also support Career Guidance, allowing students to sample different career pathways through virtual simulations. This will help them make more informed decisions about subject choices as they prepare for Senior Cycle.
This initiative reflects OCS's continued commitment to innovation, inclusion and preparing students for the rapidly evolving digital world. The introduction of the VR lab marks another significant milestone in the school's mission to provide engaging, forward-thinking educational opportunities for all students.

Macbeth



Shakespeare for OCS

Big thank you to Ms Griffin and Mr Young for organising the 5th year trip the Gaiety theatre to see Macbeth.

Mount Sion Primary School



Promoting partnership, excelling in teaching and learning

Our 3rd and 4th class boys got our 2026 hurling season underway when they took to the local sports halls to compete in this year's first competition-the Indoor Hurling!

Having been busy training after school on Thursdays, the boys got to put their skills to the test when they met Ferrybank, Scoil Lorcáin and Scoil Philib Barún in their first outing. Fantastic performances saw them go on to play Ballygunner, St Declan's and Gaelscoil Phortlairge in their second outing!

The indoor hurling has been a long running staple at the outset of the school year in Waterford for many years. It is a wonderful game, with ground hurling only permitted. Our boys had a fantastic time and the spectacle of young lads striking the ball first time on the ground is wonderful to see-a reminder of days long gone where there was no need to rise the sliotar!

Well done to all the boys and their coaches for whetting our appetite for the hurling season ahead.







Brother Anselm Quiz
Promoting partnership, excelling in teaching and learning

Our senior class GAA enthusiasts came together recently to form two teams which competed in the annual, hugely prestigious Brother Anselm GAA Quiz! The quiz, held annually in memory of the late Brother Anslem of the De la Salle order in Waterford who had given a lifetime of service to the GAA and the young people of his schools.

Over forty teams from schools all across East Waterford gathered in the Tower Hotel, under the watchful eye of the teachers from Cumann na mBunscol. Both of our teams performed admirably in pursuit of a title we had won in 2024. Alas, despite an incredible score, our boys finished just off the podium this year. Regardless, a wonderful evening of fun and drama was had by all and the boys once again represented themselves and their school with honour!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COACHES

Student Council News February 2026

Inspiring transformational leadership

On Friday, Austin Gleeson came to the school, and he talked to our 4th-6th classes about healthy eating, and healthy amounts of sleep to get each night. He told us what to eat before training or a match. He gave us real life examples of nutrition, such as the benefit of quick release energy vs slow release energy.

He told us how food like pancakes are very good for us before a match. He also spoke about the importance of breakfast before school, and how it can make us concentrate more and be more energetic in our learning. Austin explained how the boys should all be getting 10-12 hours sleep each night, especially before school. We all learned a lot from him and hope his advice will help the boys to become as good as him!!



Austin then visited the Student Council where he was interviewed by our members. Here are some of the questions asked and the answers given by Austin.

- What's your favourite hurley brand? Reid Hurleys.
- What's your favourite team to play against? Kilkenny, as we have had some great battles with them in the past.
- What's your favourite football team? Liverpool FC.
- How often do you train? 6 days a week at the minute.
- What's your favourite ice cream? Twisters.
- What's your highest checkout in darts? 112.
- What's your favourite food? Steak and sweet potatoes.
- What's your favourite car brand? Land rover.
- What's your favourite type of sliotar? All-star.
- What's your favourite shoe brand? Under Armour.
- What's your favourite pre-match meal? Chicken rice veg and sauce.
- Is there any other sports you like? NFL.
- When did you start hurling? 3 years old.
- What do you do in your spare time? Watch movies.
- What's your favourite position in hurling? Centre back number 6
- How many goals in your career with Waterford? 12
- What's your best attribute to the team? Leadership.
- Have you traveled and where? America and Singapore.
- What's the hardest team to play against? Limerick.
- What do Mount Sion have to do to win the senior championship? Beat Ballygunner.
- What's your best hurling memory? U21 Munster final.
- What's the best match you have played? U21 Munster final.
- When will you retire from hurling? When my legs give up.
- What inspired you to play hurling? Family and 00 to 06 waterford team.
- What is the best goalkeeper you have ever played against? Steven O Keefe.
- What's your favourite fruit? Kiwi.
- Why did you play for Mount Sion? Family.
- What do you like about hurling? Unique.
- What's your favourite video game? Fifa
- Do you have a console or computer? No
- Will Waterford win the all-Ireland in your opinion? Yes.

Grandparents day
Nurturing faith and creating a caring school community

On Wednesday the 21st of January, as part of Catholic Schools Week, we celebrated Grandparents' Day in our school. Many classes engaged with the day by creating poems and cards for grandparents and inviting children to share their stories of their grandparents. Both 5th classes invited grandparents to visit and talk about their lives when they were young

in order for the children to be able to compare it to life in the present day. The pupils had prepared some questions to ask them. All of the grandparents agreed that life today is much easier than life when they were young. They spoke of needing to help out at home after school and how their parents had to work so hard to provide for them. They discussed games they used to play years ago such as hopscotch and marbles and the children were interested in hearing about these and were amazed to hear a schoolyard game 'Knuckles' played in the 1960s using stones.

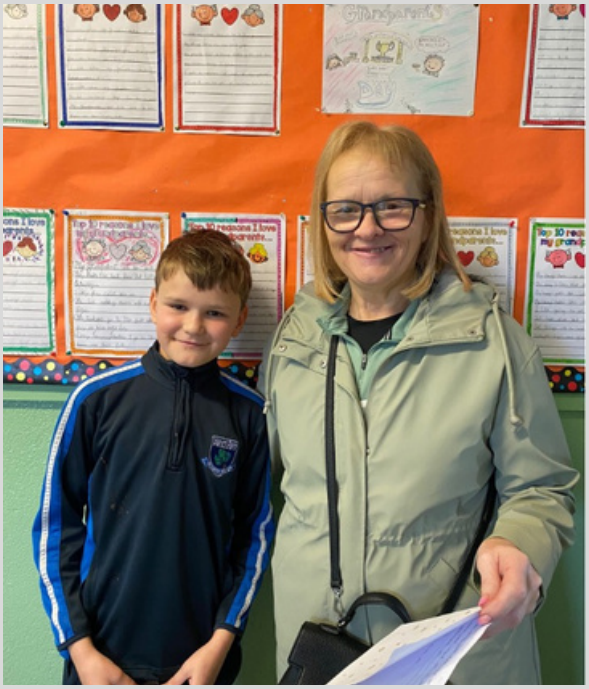
Their grandparents also shared their favourite thing about being a grandparent and the pupils shared their favourite things about their grandparents who visited. It was wonderful to hear them all speaking so lovingly about one another and it was really in keeping with the message of Catholic School's Week.

In Ms. Cheasty's class, Robin's nanny shared her talent of baking with the class by bringing in delicious cookies she had baked that morning. Jayden's nanny had travelled from another county to get to see his school and visit his class, and Tyler's nanny and grandad visited, with his grandad being a past pupil of the school who hadn't been back in many years.

In Ms. Power's class, Harry's grandparents Tom and Mary visited, as well as Max's grandad John, and Quinn's nanny Maura. They provided a great insight into life in the past for all of the boys.

The pupils were so welcoming to all of our visitors and the grandparents were full of praise for the boys in both classes. Later in the week, Quinn's nanny Maura sent in the most delicious Lemon Drizzle cake for all the pupils and staff to say thank you for the invitation and the welcome she received. We look forward to inviting grandparents to visit again next year.






Thank You!




January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January

Journi Credit Union Annual Quiz 2026
Excelling in teaching and learning and promoting partnership.

On Monday, February 9th, our school was represented in the Annual Credit Union Schools Quiz. The Credit Union quizzes are a long standing tradition nationally, and we were thrilled to have one team in the U11 category and one team in the U13 age group. The boys were a credit to themselves and Mount Sion, and performed extremely well on the night, with our U11 team placing 4th overall.
Well done to the boys involved, we are all so proud of you







Cycling programme
Excelling in teaching and learning

Our 5th classes took part in a five week cycling programme. The boys learned the road safety rules while cycling and a few boys learned how to cycle for the first time. The boys not only enjoyed it but they had great exercise aswell as learning how to keep safe while cycling. The boys gained confidence in not only cycling but also learning safety rules whilst cycling. It made a few boys think about their cycling practices. The boys learned cycling is good not only for physical health but mental health.





Paired History and Science with T.Y students in our secondary school
Excelling in teaching and learning, promoting partnership and inspiring transformational leadership

Our two 5th classes team up with the T.Y students in our secondary school every Tuesday to do paired Science and paired History.The T.Y students mentor our 5th class through collaborative learning sessions. This promotes teamwork and communication while also the boys learn History and Science. The 5th classes are experiencing their learning in the secondary school, this will help make the transition to secondary school easier. Also it is lovely for teachers to make connections from the primary and the secondary. It is developing both sets of pupils' social skills and communication. It allows the T.Y students to develop their leadership skills and maturity.







New Ross CBS



New School Crest: Competition Winner Announced!

The Crest Committee is absolutely delighted to announce the winner of our recent School Crest Competition: Entry No. 25, designed by Fifth Year student Laura!

Laura's design stood out for its creativity, thoughtfulness and strong reflection of our school's values. She will now work alongside the committee to finalise the crest as it moves into the next stage of development in preparation for professional printing and production.





Celebrating Outstanding Talent

The judging panel also selected five outstanding runner-up entries (in no particular order): Ellen (First Year), Isabelle (First Year), Amelia (Second Year), Zara (Second Year) and Hanne (Fifth Year).

We were genuinely amazed not only by the number of entries submitted, but by the exceptionally high standard across all year groups. Choosing a winner was no easy task and led to much discussion and careful consideration.

A Whole-School Journey

The competition began with engaging presentations by Ms Claire Wilson to all year groups, parents and staff, outlining the vision and purpose behind redesigning our crest.

This ensured that the entire school community understood the significance of the project and had the opportunity to contribute.The Crest Committee consisted of students, staff, parents and board members while the judging panel also reflected the breadth of our school community and included a representative from our patron body ERST Leo Hogan, the Chairperson of the Board of Management Billy O'Shea, the Chairperson of the Parents' Association, Carel Van Der Merwe, a student representative Jack, a member of staff Teresa Muarry and two community members Fr Odhran and Monsignor Joe. This wide representation ensured a fair, balanced and thoughtful selection process.

What Happens Next?

We are now entering the professional redesign phase. The chosen crest will be refined in collaboration with graphic designers to ensure it is suitable for use across all platforms and materials.

Once finalised, the new crest will gradually be introduced over a six-year phased transition. During this time, it will replace the existing crest on school uniforms, headed paper and official documentation, school policies, signage and publications and digital platforms.

This careful, phased approach allows for a smooth and practical transition for families while marking an exciting new chapter in our school's history.

A school crest is more than a logo — it represents who we are, what we stand for and the legacy we carry forward. We are incredibly proud of the creativity and engagement shown by our students throughout this process.

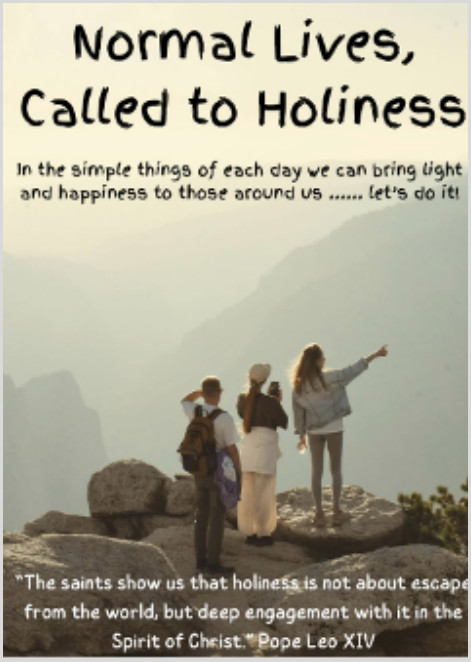
We would like to sincerely thank all of the students who participated and contributed their creativity and ideas throughout the process. Our appreciation also extends to Ms Claire Wilson for facilitating the student voice workshops and presentations, Ms Edel Whelan for leading the Crest Committee, Ms Teresa Murray for coordinating the exhibition in the Art Room and Ms Mary O'Hanlon for digitising all entries.

The final decision was made on Friday, January 30th by a representative and balanced judging panel comprising Billy O'Shea (Chairperson, Board of Management), Leo Hogan (ERST Representative), Carel Van Der Merwe (Chairperson, Parents' Association), Jack (Student Council Representative), Teresa Murray (Art Teacher), Fr Odhran Furlong and Monsignor Joe McGrath.

We also acknowledge with gratitude the contribution of Fr Odhran Furlong to the judging process. This was his final official task in CBS. May he rest in peace.

The Crest Committee comprising Ms Rice, Mr Fitzpatrick, Ms Whelan, Ms Wilson, Ms Murray, Ms Oakley,
Ms Rowe (HSCL), Ms O'Hanlon, Mr Kavanagh, Susan Synnott (BOM) would like to congratulate Laura and all who participated in this important milestone for our school community.





Catholic Schools Week 2026

We had a wonderful and celebration of Catholic Schools Week from 19th–23rd January 2026, centred on this year's beautiful theme: "Normal Lives, Called to Holiness."Throughout the week, our students reflected on how everyday actions of kindness, service, effort and prayer are ways we answer God's call in our daily lives.
Our Second Year students began the week on Monday with visits to our Parish Church. Each class had the opportunity to spend time understanding of the importance of community and faith in ordinary life. It was a calm and meaningful start to a very special week.

On Wednesday, our Fifth Year and Sixth Year students attended an inspiring talk by John Pridmore a former London mobster! He asked students to reflect on the deep longing we all have for God. His message was that the emptiness in our hearts can only be answered when we welcome God into our lives. The talk sparked thoughtful conversations and gave our senior students much to reflect upon.

Thursday saw our Transition Year students welcome a visit from the HM Sisters. Across three sessions, TYs engaged with the sisters, learning more about religious life and how responding to a vocation can grow from simple, everyday faithfulness. Students asked insightful questions and greatly appreciated the opportunity to hear first-hand about lives dedicated to service.

On Friday, our Fifth Year students visited Mt Carmel, where they experienced a time of reflection and retreat. This provided space to pause, step back from busy routines and consider the deeper meaning of the week's theme.



Celebrating Grandparents and VIPs at CBS New Ross

As part of the concluding celebrations of Catholic Schools Week, CBS New Ross was delighted to host our annual Grandparents Day / VIP Day, a special occasion that recognises the vital role of family and community in the lives of our students.


FRIDAY 30 JANUARY 2026
WELCOME TO
GRANDPARENTS AND VIPs
DEIS








FRIDAY 30 JANUARY 2026
WELCOME TO
GRANDPARENTS AND VIPs
DEIS



Combating the January Blues: Amber Flag in Action



January can be a challenging month for many with dark mornings, busy schedules and the pressure of exams all taking their toll. This year, our Amber Flag committee made it their mission to lift spirits across the school community and actively combat the so-called "January Blues".

A strong emphasis was placed on appreciation and kindness. As a gesture of thanks for their continued support and dedication, staff were treated to homemade baked goods, reminding them that their hard work never goes unnoticed. In addition, heartfelt thank-you cards were created and distributed to our auxiliary staff, acknowledging the vital role they play in the daily life of the school.



Student wellbeing was also a key focus. The Amber Flag team created a January playlist, full of uplifting and calming music, which was shared with students through the Mind Your Mind Google Classroom. This simple but thoughtful initiative encouraged students to take moments throughout the day to reset, relax and recharge.

With mock exams taking place, exam-year students were especially supported. The Amber Flag committee organised quiet spaces where students could step away from the busyness of school, reflect, or simply enjoy a moment of calm during a stressful time.

To further promote positive mental health, the committee also organised a Mindfulness Morning, giving students the opportunity to start the day in a calm and supportive environment. Through guided mindfulness activities, students were encouraged to slow down, focus on the present moment and develop strategies to manage stress and anxiety.

A Gratitude Wall was created in the Edmund Rice Room, inviting students and staff to write down things they were thankful for and helping to shift focus towards the positives, even during a demanding time of year. Adding to this message, uplifting Post-it notes were placed in lockers throughout the school, offering words of encouragement and kindness to brighten students' days.



Culture Awareness Week

This week we celebrated Culture Week by recognising and celebrating the rich cultural diversity within our school community.

Each morning, announcements focused on different cultures, traditions and experiences, helping to promote awareness and appreciation among students and staff.

We also held a dedicated day to showcase the many cultures represented in our school, where students shared elements such as traditional food, games and customs, creating a lively and inclusive atmosphere throughout the school.

A Culture Awareness Week 2026 display was created in the school hall, featuring the word "welcome" in a variety of languages to reflect the inclusive and multicultural nature of our school community.

In addition, Transition Year students attended an informative and engaging talk from the Immigrant Council on the Red Card, which encouraged discussions around equality, anti-racism and respect, further reinforcing the importance of inclusion and understanding in our school.


IRELAND
Ireland




Bioma

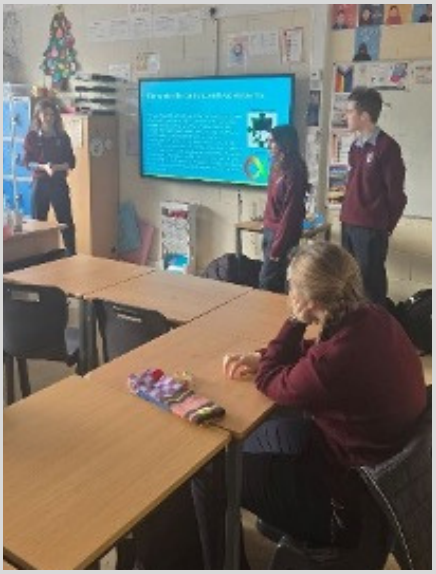





LITHUANIA











TY SPHE: Learning Beyond the Classroom

Transition Year SPHE has proven to be a space where learning comes to life beyond textbooks and timetables. This year, TY students have taken ownership of their learning by working in small groups to plan and deliver Awareness Weeks throughout the school year, each focusing on important social, personal and global issues.

So far, students have successfully organised awareness weeks on Mental Health, Holocaust Awareness, Cancer Awareness, In November We Remember, Reuse and Recycle and the Shoebox Appeal to name a few. Each week was carefully planned and student-led, with TYs deciding how best to inform, engage and involve the wider school community.

The activities organised went far beyond posters on corridors. Students arranged talks, facilitated workshops, delivered classroom presentations and led meaningful discussions. These experiences allowed them not only to raise awareness, but also to develop a deeper understanding of empathy, responsibility and active citizenship.

Throughout the process, TY students developed a wide range of key skills. Working in groups strengthened their interpersonal and teamwork skills, while organising events helped build confidence, leadership and initiative. Presenting to peers and staff enhanced their communication and presentation skills, giving many students the confidence to speak publicly and express their ideas clearly.

Most importantly, the TY SPHE awareness weeks have shown how young people can make a real and positive impact when given responsibility and trust. The commitment, creativity and maturity shown by the TY students have enriched school life and highlighted the true spirit of Transition Year — learning through experience, reflection and meaningful engagement with the world around us.

TY Student Enterprise

We are absolutely delighted to congratulate our Transition Year Student Enterprise Programme groups who were selected to represent our school at the District Finals of the Student Enterprise Programme.
Each of the four qualifying groups brought creativity and originality to their enterprise:

Protoprint
Building on their Sci-Fest project from the third year, this innovative duo designs and produces 3D-printed products, with a particular focus on items inspired by Dungeons & Dragons. Their technical skill and creativity have set them apart.

Sculpt & Spark
This group creates beautifully handcrafted clay pieces, including animal figures and seasonal decorations. Each miniature sculpture is carefully packaged in a presentation box, complete with paint pots and brushes, allowing customers to personalise their own piece.





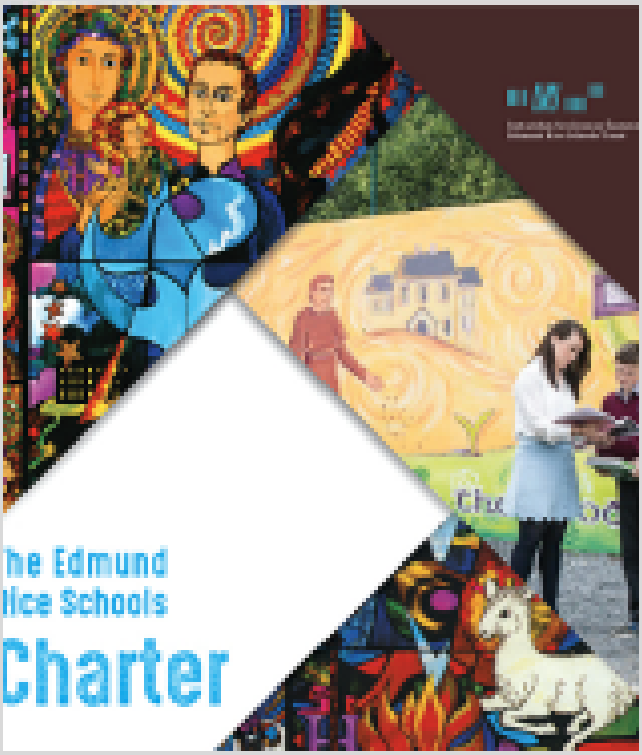




Dazzling Designs
Specialising in handcrafted timber decorations, this group produced stunning Christmas tree ornaments. They are now exploring ways to adapt and expand their product range to suit different events and celebrations throughout the year.

Bláthanna Álainn
Meaning "Beautiful Flowers," this group produces exquisite handmade flowers crafted from crepe paper and hot glue. Hours of dedication go into creating lifelike lilies, roses and other blooms in a variety of colours. Their flowers are available individually or arranged in elegant bouquets.

We are extremely proud of all the students involved for their hard work, dedication and creativity. We wish them every success as they represent our school at the County Finals next month.



Celebrating our Community in the Spirit of Edmund Rice

As we reflect on the many events and achievements highlighted in this edition of our newsletter, we are reminded once again of our Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST) Charter (available at this link) which are:

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

These principles continue to guide and shape daily life in CBS New Ross. They are not simply words on a page, but values lived out in our classrooms, on our sports fields, in our corridors and through the many activities that enrich school life.

We are deeply grateful to our dedicated staff for their professionalism, generosity and unwavering commitment to our students. We also commend our students for their enthusiasm, kindness and willingness to embrace every opportunity presented to them. Together, staff and students ensure that the vision of Blessed Edmund Rice remains strong and vibrant within our school community.

If a student has an achievement, story or article that they or their parent/guardian would like to see included in a future newsletter, we warmly welcome your contributions. Sharing these moments allows us to continue celebrating the many ways our CBS New Ross community grows, learns and leads together.

As we approach the midterm break, we wish all our students, families and staff a restful and enjoyable week. May it be a time to recharge, spend time with loved ones and return refreshed for the weeks ahead.
We look forward to continuing to share and celebrate the achievements of our school community in our next edition.

High School Clonmel



Our 1st years enjoyed a trip to Manchester recently attending the Man City vs Fulham match followed by a stadium tour of Anfield. This proved to be great experience for all.

Liam McCarthy Visit

On 21st of January, we were delighted to welcome the Liam McCarthy cup to the school accompanied by members of the All-Ireland winning Tipperary hurling panel. St Mary's clubman, Séamus Kennedy & our former teacher Mikey Breen spoke to our staff & students on their journey to success with Tipperary & received a rapturous ovation from the whole school community.
We also marked the success of our current senior students in GAA representing their clubs & winning various titles with their clubs in 2025 & acknowledged the contribution of these clubs to our school.

Corn Uí Mhuirí Final

For only the 3rd time, our senior footballers reached the Corn Uí Mhuirí final, the Munster A School's Senior Football final as they faced one of the kingpins of Munster football & 16 time winners CBS The Green Tralee in Mallow on 7th of February in front of a huge & boisterous crowd.
Having defeated St Flannan's, Kenmare, Clonakilty & Miltown on their way to the final, the High School had surprised many with their quality of football & hoped to emulate the High School team of 1928 in winning this famous trophy. On the day, Tralee showed their class but were made to work for their 17th title.





STEM at CBS High School Clonmel goes from strength to strength!

Excitement is building at CBS High School Clonmel as our STEM Club continues to reach new heights! Since kicking off the new school year on September 3rd, the club has become a hub of innovation, creativity, and problem-solving. With the highly anticipated STEM Fair coming up on March 12th, the energy during our weekly sessions is electric.

Meeting every Wednesday at lunchtime, the club has seen a fantastic turnout this year. We started the term with hands-on mechanical construction sessions, where students dived into the fundamentals of engineering. One of the major highlights of the first term was Maths Week, which was largely driven by the STEM Club's enthusiasm. The school was buzzing with daily "Countdown" challenges that tested the speed and logic of students across all year groups.

The STEM Club also hosted a dedicated stand in the school reception, packed with puzzles and brain-teasers that kept everyone on their toes. It was wonderful to see so many students engaging with the activities, and even better to see so many walk away as winners! A special mention must go to Brian Roche (1st Year), who gave an inspiring talk and tutorial on Scratch (scratch.mit.edu) during the week. Brian did a fantastic job teaching his peers about the world of coding, and the session was a hit with everyone who attended. The club's reach didn't stop there; they also organized and ran a challenging TY Maths Quiz, ensuring that the Transition Year students were kept sharp and competitive!

Before the Christmas break, our members turned their engineering talents toward a festive cause. Over several weeks, the club worked diligently to build a magnificent Lego Christmas Tree. This wasn't just for display in our halls—it was a special gift for the Clonmel Hospital, bringing a bit of STEM-inspired cheer to patients and staff over the holidays.





Our students haven't just been building with Lego; they've been dominating on the national stage. We are incredibly proud of Asmeer Mohammed, who achieved a perfect score in the 2025 Maggie Gough Maths Competition. Asmeer was one of only 90 students out of 23,200 participants across 232 schools nationwide to achieve full marks. This is a truly elite achievement that reflects his hard work and mathematical brilliance. The talent continues into our junior ranks as well. In January, Brian Roche and Cillian Conran achieved the highest scores in the school's IMTA Maths Competition among the first-year cohort.







An Dáil & European Parliament

Sean Doverman had the fantastic opportunity to undertake a trip to Stormont, An Dáil Éireann, and The European Parliament in Strasbourg. He was one of 20 winners out of the 1,500 applicants for the Rotary Youth Leadership Development competition. Acting as an MEP's for the day, he had the chance to question Vice President Esteban González Pons and he delivered a short speech on the climate crisis alongside 700 like-minded students from across Europe.

He has expressed that "It was an immensely rich experience that I am ever so grateful to have been able to partake in, and I would urge every young person to avail of this competition when they can! Thank you to Rotary Ireland for facilitating and organising this trip, and my own school, Ardscoil na mBráithre Clonmel for their everlasting support!".

Well done Sean from us all in The Highschool Clonmel!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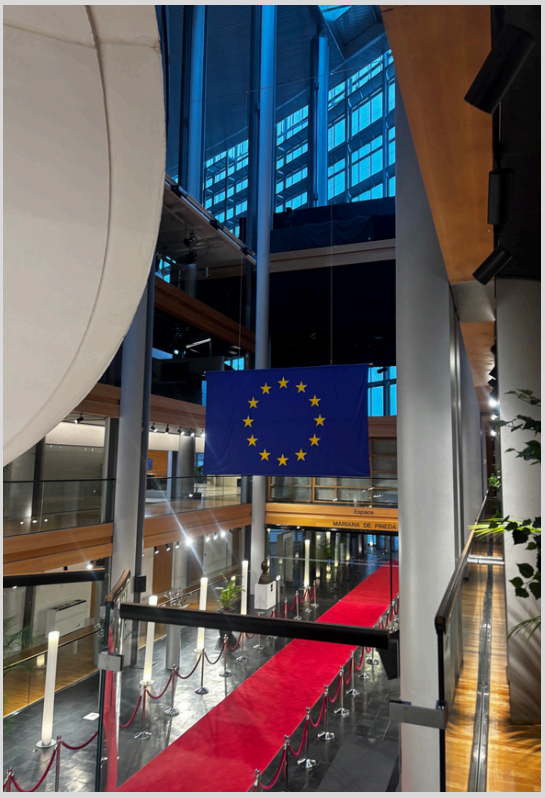




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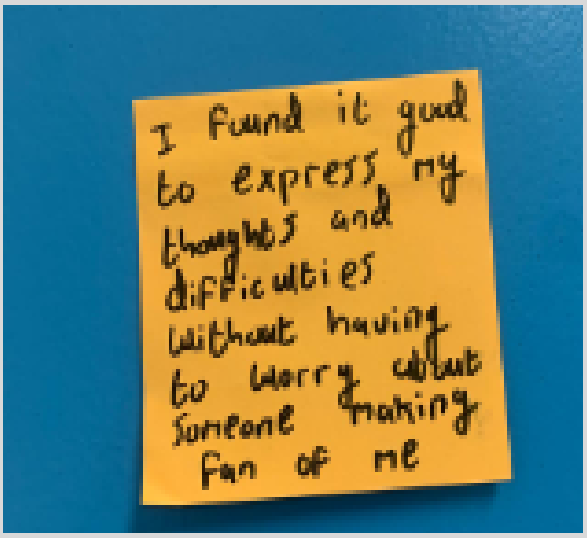
Coláiste Eoin Baile Átha Cliath

Seachtain na Scoileanna Caitliceacha.
Urnaí Treoraithe

Tháinig Emma Thompson ó Prayer Spaces in Schools isteach chuig ár ndaltaí idirbhliana le linn Seachtain na Scoileanna Caitliceacha. D'éascaigh Emma tráth de urnaí agus machnaimh do mhic léinn ar theastaigh uathu leas a bhaint as. Go raibh maith agat le Emma as lá chomh suimiúil agus chomh nuálach sin a éascú agus as bealach nua guí a thaispeáint dár ndaltaí.





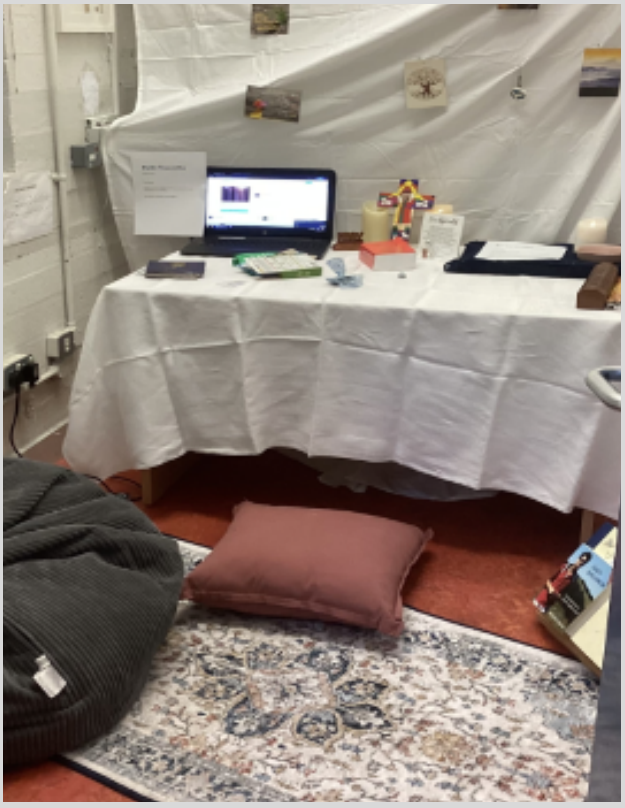




'Pop - Up' Prayer Space.

Bhí spás urnaí speisialta cruthaithe le haghaidh Seachtain na Scoileanna Caitliceacha. Bhí deis ag pobal na scoile teacht agus guí i dtimpeallacht suaimhneach agus síochánta, i rith na seachtaine.

Bhí an seomra oscailte an t-am ar fad agus bhí raon stáisiún urnaí éagsúla ann chun stíleanna paidróireachta éagsúla a éascú. Bhain cuid mhór de pobal na mic léinn leas as an spás seo a úsáid, ag mothú na n-éifeachtaí dearfacha a mbaineann le spás mar seo a bheith ar fáil dóibh.





Foirne Eitpheile.

Thosaigh foirne eitpheile f19 agus f16 an bhliain le díograis agus diongbháilteacht, agus iad ag súil leis an dúshlán mór a bhí rompu: Craobh na hÉireann. D'íoc an obair chrua astu nuair a bhuaigh an dá fhoireann bonn Chraobh na hÉireann i Roinn C. Thosaigh an f19 mar ghrúpa sóisialta cúpla bliain ó shin, ach anuraidh ghlac siad go dáiríre leis an traenáil agus bhí torthaí iontacha ar a gcuid iarrachtaí. Léiríodh a bhfeabhas ar an lá mór, agus bronnadh Fear na hImeartha ar Daniel Ó Broin (F19) don sár-imirt. Spreag a rath an f16, a bunaíodh i mí Mheán Fómhair, agus chuaigh siadsan i mbun traenála le fuinneamh úrnua. Bhain siad an chraobh i mí Eanáir, agus bronnadh Fear na hImeartha ar Pheadar Ó Ciaragáin dá sheasamh seiftiúil sa gcluiche ceannais. Buíochas le Iníon Ní Fhinneadha agus Iníon Nic Giolla Ríogh a bhí mar bhainisteoirí ar an dá fhoireann, ag taistil gach aon chúinne den tír lena gcuid imreoirí. Tús láidir é seo agus comhartha againn ar an méid atá fós le teacht. Is iomaí síol beag a shíolann.


Volleyball Ireland
Volleyball Ireland
Volleyball Ireland

Portlaoise CBS



Huge Congratulations to Joshua Corbett - Runner-Up Overall Individual at the Stripe Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition and Overall Category Winner in Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics

We are incredibly proud of our Sixth Year student Joshua Corbett, who was named Runner-Up Overall Individual at the Stripe Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition in the RDS.

Joshua impressed judges with his innovative project "There's Plenty of Room to Breakthrough at the Bottom", an AI-driven approach to advancing drug delivery for brain cancer research.

He was also crowned Overall Category Winner in Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics, an outstanding achievement at national level.

Upon Joshua's return, our school community came together to give him a well-deserved homecoming.
An incredible example of curiosity, resilience and hard work. We can't wait to see what the future holds!







James Doyle - National Runner-Up in the Lions Clubs Ireland Youth Ambassador Awards 2026

We are incredibly proud to celebrate James Doyle, a 5th Year student, who was named National Runner-Up in the Lions Clubs Ireland Youth Ambassador Awards 2026.

The Youth Ambassador competition is an annual national event recognising young people aged 15–19 for their outstanding community involvement, leadership skills, and public speaking ability.

After being nominated by Portlaoise Lions Club, James represented his community with distinction at the National Final, held on Saturday 17th January in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise. On the day, finalists took part in in-depth interviews and delivered presentations highlighting their voluntary and community work.

As National Runner-Up, James now has the opportunity to participate in the European Youth Exchange Programme, a remarkable achievement. Huge congratulations to James on this prestigious success. We wish him every success as he continues to represent his school and his community with pride.





2nd Year Footballers Crowned South Leinster B Champions

Result - St. Mary's CBS 4-11 Gorey CS 4-7

A fantastic performance from our 2nd Year footballers saw them victorious in the South Leinster B Final. After trailing by five points at half-time, the team showed character, determination and teamwork to produce a second-half comeback and claim the South Leinster 'B' Championship title.

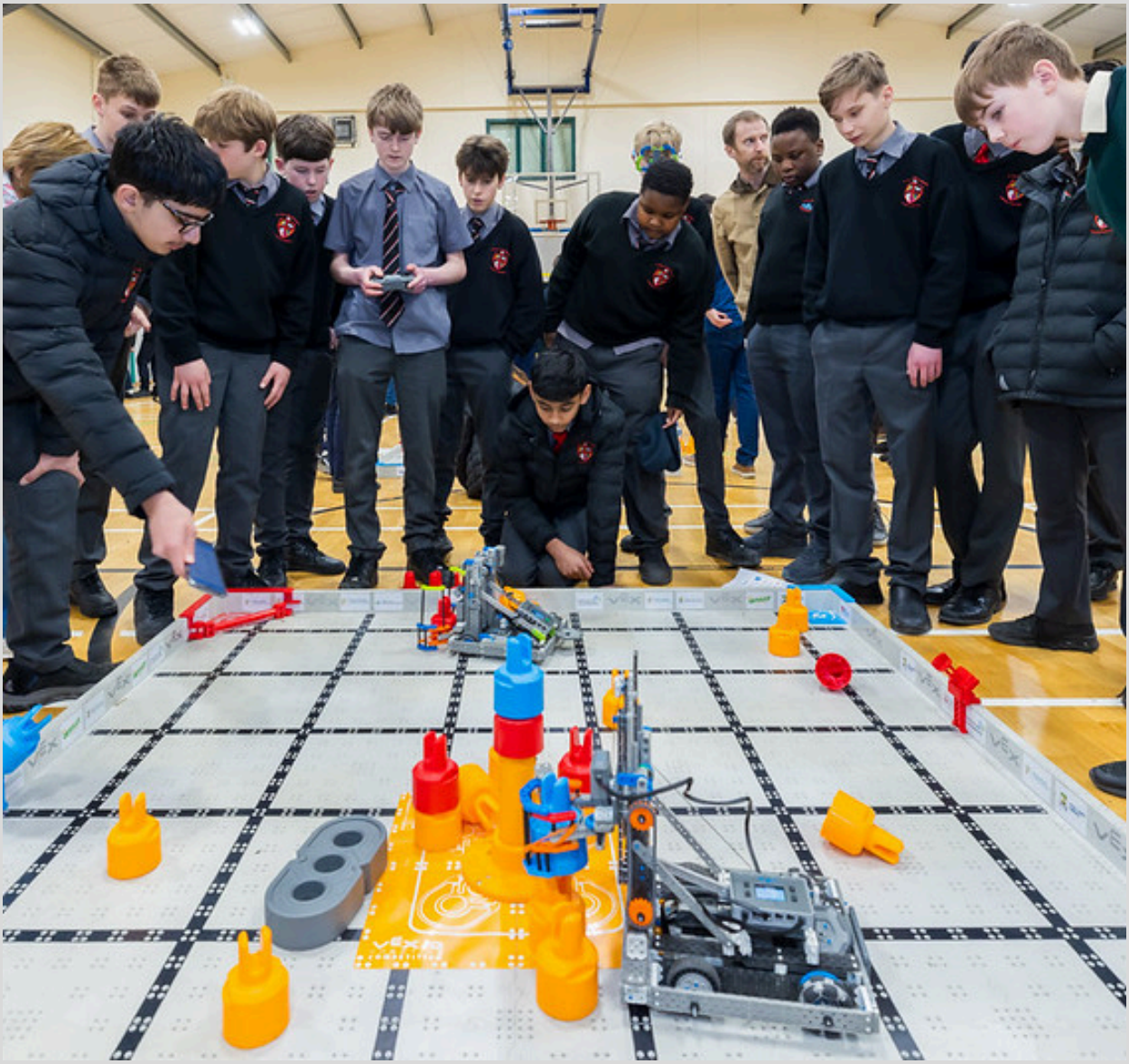
A great achievement and a day to remember for St. Mary's CBS, we are so proud of you all.
The team went on to defeat Malahide CS in the Leinster B Football final and now face the winners of Scoil Dara Kilcock and St. Joseph's Drogheda.

Junior Robotics Success

On Tuesday 3rd February, our junior VEX Robotics teams –the AstroBots and the RoboDuckies – competed in Mucklagh, Tullamore at the Offaly Regional VEX Robotics Qualifiers.

Both teams were highly competitive all day, with the AstroBots finishing an impressive 4th and the RoboDuckies finishing 7th out of 26 teams.

The RoboDuckies had already qualified for the National Finals and will proudly represent the school in Cork on the 25th of February at a national level. Best of luck to them!



Waterpark College Waterford

After a very busy midterm, there's a lot we are grateful for. We want to acknowledge the work and support of all our staff in taking care of our students and each other. We've had a number of student teachers joining us on staff and it's great to see them entering into the inimical spirit, that is Waterpark College. Recently, we have celebrated a staff retirement with our former TY Coordinator, Peter Quillinan and his family.

Meanwhile school life goes on with its familiar round of mock exams for our Third Years and Leaving Certs. Well done to Ms. O' Brien for the coordination of these high priority exams. On the extracurricular front we've had great success this New Year with our Basketballers, Girls Volleyballers , Hurlers , Rugby Team, Footballers and Athletes, the latter who competed at the Munster Schools Cross Country and have qualified for All Irelands.



Our New Special Class

Waterpark College is proud to announce the introduction of a new Special Class, opening in September 2026, marking an important and positive step forward in our ongoing commitment to inclusive education. This development will broaden our capacity to support students with additional educational needs and further strengthen the ethos of Blessed Edmund Rice which is one of care, respect, and opportunity for all.

As a school community rooted in inclusion and excellence, we look forward to welcoming new students and families, and to continuing our work in creating an environment where every young person is supported to reach their full potential, academically, socially, and personally.



Stride to School Initiative

Thanks to all who have helped Ms. Beglin launch this Wellbeing Initiative which benefits our staff and students mentally and physically. promo. Waterford City and County Council are our partners encouraging us to be healthier and travel to school in a more sustainable way. This means if you are travelling by car that you get a walk in for a part of your journey. We're delighted also that many members of our community use public transport. Students receive stamps in their journals when they are met by our Stride to School Stewards and are rewarded with a hot chocolate at lunchtime for their endeavours. It's a great partnership and beneficial to all. This helps ease traffic congestion and contributes to a cleaner environment. It also builds independence in our young people and fosters stronger connections and friendships within our school community which is embedded in our Bí Cineálta Policy.

"I wish"

On Thursday morning, 5th February, all TY girls visited the RDS for talks and activities about women's empowerment. The event "I Wish" is a community committed to showcasing the power of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths to teenage girls. On the day , our students enjoyed the inspirational speeches from women like Mary Considine who was appointed Chief Executive of Iarnród Éireann in October 2025. Mary spoke about breaking the infamous glass ceiling and shared her experience of how she leads the management team in delivering upon the vision of ensuring Iarnród Éireann is the backbone of Ireland's sustainable transport network.
Other speakers included Richael Timothy, Irish Paralympian Cyclist, Katelyn Cummins, international Rose of Tralee and Gillian Keating (I Wish Co-Founder).
The speeches were followed by time to explore around the Festival Exhibition Hall where they got the chance to visit stands and ask questions in relation to careers in STEM.
All transport was funded by Iarnród Éireann, making the train journey and shuttle bus to the RDS available to the students. Thanks to Ms. Siobhán Cahill, our TY Coordinator, Ms. Fanning and Ms. Sweetman for organising and accompanying the girls on this great day out!

Road Safety TY Garda Talk

Garda Gráinne O' Shea gave the Lifesaver Project Presentation to all TY students. The Project is a Road Safety educational presentation, highlighting the devastating affect that Road Traffic Collisions have on people's lives. It delivers a strong road safety message, how driving under the influence and use of mobile phones can have such an impact on a people's lives.



Catholic Schools Week

Across the world, Catholic Schools across the country and throughout the world celebrated our unique identity. In Ireland alone, there are over 4 and a half thousand Catholic schools.
Every day in our schools, we are called to explore what it means to be Catholic.
School life helps us to look at the ethos and values of our Founder, Blessed Edmund Rice, who devoted his life to prayer and charitable work, particularly with the poor and marginalised of Waterford.

Our focus in the school was our annual Grandparents Day. Due to inclement weather, we held a Prayer Service in our G.P. room rather than attend the Mass with Fr. Tom and his parishioners in St. John's Church. We had a bumper turn out as 40 grandparents visited the school and met up with their grandchildren in the Home Economics Room for refreshments. It was lovely to see our students bringing our visitors around the school to show off our 5-star facilities. Thanks to Ms. O' Keeffe for providing the catering on the day and our music students who made our liturgy so meaningful.





ERST Prayer Service for Catholic Schools Week

Thanks to John Dunne at Mt. Sion for organising a Prayer Service to mark Catholic Schools Week with our local Edmund Rice Schools. Student Representatives from Waterpark College, Ard Scoil na Mara, Tramore and Mount Sion Primary and Secondary School were present in the chapel for a very nice gathering to explore the life and message of Blessed Edmund with a particular focus on the themes of Identity and Community. The Mount Sion Christian Brother Community was represented by Br. Peadar, Br. Christy and Br. Placid.

Each school participated actively through readings and reflections selected by their respective schools. During the celebration, students from Mount Sion CBS read the introduction, Waterpark College students Ryan McGilloway and Dean Conway read from the old and new Testaments, Prayers of the Faithful were led by Student Council members from Ard Scoil and the closing reflection was delivered by students from Mount Sion CBS. Colette Kearney conducted her choir in their rendition of some very uplifting songs including "Eagles Wings" and our firm favourite "This Little Light of Mine". To mark this lovely occasion, each student was given a pack of Edmund Rice literature as a very thoughtful memento.



6th Year Coffee and Prayer morning

This is our second year of our Leaving Cert Coffee and Prayer friendly gatherings with our religious community. Students organised friendship groups to meet up and have a chat with Br. Chrity, Br. Placid, Fr. Tom, and Olivia Elliott our Diocesan Advisor. Students are very grateful to know that they are in the thoughts and prayers of others. We hope to meet up again for Daffodil Day and grow the relationships even more.

Chaplaincy Supports for the whole school community

We are very fortunate to have Fr. Tom and Sr. Kathryn to support our school community with our pastoral needs. Sr. Kathryn has made time for students on Wednesday mornings and Fr. Tom is available to students on Thursday afternoons in our Pastoral Care Room. Students can come in for a chat if they need to. Sr. Kathryn is also running a Bible studies Group once a week during lunchtime class. This gives interested students a time and space to explore the many readings and reflections in the Holy Bible. There are Lenten events planned for interested staff also available.



Celebrating Bridget

A big thank you to our Art and Construction Departments headed up by Ms. Lanigan and Mr. O'Brien, respectively for putting St. Bridget front and centre of our lives on her feast day.

Art students produced and displayed their inspiring Crosses while construction students worked on an older school image of Bridget that will now adorn our walls. Thanks to all for this collab!

TY Students Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

Ty students, Arina Drozdova and Katelyn Corish have their sights set on a Diocesan pilgrimage to Medjugorje with the Pope John Paul II Diocesan group from April 15th – 22nd 2026. These JP2 Students are currently fundraising for their trip. They ran coffee, tea and biscuits and hot chocolate mornings for year groups with raffles.

Thanks to all who so generously donated to their fundraiser and in particular to those who supplied goodies for their raffles.

The Little Princess Trust

A big thanks to our CARAS who raised money for the Little Princess Trust Charity. The charity provides free real hair wigs to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions. We asked our students to wear purple which is one of our emblematic colours and they also had the option of wearing a fun hairstyle. Thanks to Ms. Lanigan and the student organisers who organised a photo shoot in the art room for the event. It was a lot of hard work and attention for people they care about!

Scoil Íosagáin Limerick

St Brigid's Day

Our pupils enjoyed making St Brigid's crosses.















Dungarvan CBS



Bishop Cullinan Visit

The school community was delighted to welcome Bishop Cullinane to our campus on Friday, February 6th. It was a morning marked by warmth, reflection, and an invitation for our junior students to look beyond the everyday hustle of school life.

Sharing a Journey of Faith
The Bishop spent time meeting with all 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Year students, offering them a personal glimpse into his own life story. He spoke candidly about his path to the priesthood, sharing the experiences and the "calling" that led him to dedicate his life to the Church. His message wasn't just about the past, however; it was a conversation about the present. He challenged the students to consider their own lives, asking them a simple yet profound question: "What is it that brings you true peace?"

Balancing the Spiritual and Material
In an age where we are often surrounded by "things," Bishop Cullinane spoke about the vital importance of the spiritual life. He encouraged the students to find a balance, reminding them that while the material world is a part of our daily experience, nurturing our inner, spiritual selves is what provides lasting grounding and perspective.

A Warm Reception
The visit wasn't limited to the assembly hall. Following his talks with the students, the Bishop joined the faculty in the staffroom for morning break. It was a lovely opportunity for teachers and staff to engage with him in a relaxed setting over a cup of tea.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Bishop Cullinane for his time, his insight, and the gentle sense of calm he brought to our school week.


2026


2026





MEP Billy Kelleher Inspires TY Students

We were delighted to welcome MEP Billy Kelleher to the school to meet with our Transition Year students. The visit was a fantastic opportunity for the year group, who are currently participating in the European Parliament Ambassador School (EPAS) Programme, a scheme dedicated to teaching students about European governance and democracy.

A Look into Life in the European Parliament
Mr. Kelleher shared fascinating insights into his professional life, splitting his time between the parliamentary seats in Strasbourg and Brussels. He detailed his influential work on several key committees, including:

- Economic and Monetary Affairs: Critical issues like taxation and monetary policy.
- Environment, Public Health, and Food Safety.
- Women's Rights and Gender Equality.

Engaging Debate and Local Connections
Our students took the opportunity to put their EPAS knowledge to the test, engaging in a high-level Q&A session. The discussion covered a wide range of global topics, including:

- The potential impact of US tariffs and the Mercosur trade deal.
- The ongoing situation in Ukraine and future EU expansion.
- The tangible benefits of EU citizenship for young people today.

Beyond the political debate, Billy proved to be a hit with the students by finding common ground over a shared passion for hurling. His ability to relate to the boys made for a truly engaging and memorable afternoon.



Cross-Country







Strong Showings at County Cross Country Championships

On Friday January 16th, eighteen of our dedicated athletes headed to the Friary to compete in the County Cross Country Championships.

The day kicked off with the minor category, where Oisín Keohan and Harry Brown made their competitive debut. Both ran a fantastic first race over the 2km course, gaining valuable experience in the sport. In the Junior race, Ollie Cunningham and Joshua Bin showed great determination, giving their all across a challenging 3km route.

The intermediate race saw our largest turnout, with thirteen runners taking to the line for a demanding 5km course. All thirteen competed with grit and spirit. A special mention goes to William McNally, who stayed in the lead pack throughout the race and delivered a powerful finish to secure a well-deserved 3rd place.

Rounding off the day, Darragh Kelleher represented the school in the senior category, putting in a solid performance over the 5km distance.

Congratulations to all the lads on a fantastic day of racing! Well done to Mr. Commins for overseeing the event.

Doon CBS Primary School



Doon C.B.S. Primary School winners of the Cumann na mBunscol Luimneach inter-schools Quiz held at St. Paul's Primary School, Dooadoyle:
Pictured (left to right): Tommy Quinlinan, Fionn O'Brien, Paul Kennedy, President of Cumann na mBunscol, Luimneach, who presented the prizes, P.J. Cusack, and Tommy Treacy.
Doon C.B.S. now go forward to the National Cumann na mBunscol Quiz, which will be held in Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Sunday 22 March 2026.



Doon C.B.S. Primary School winners of the Credit Union Under 11 inter – schools Quiz held in Tipperary Town.
Pictured: Cooper Creagh, Senan Murphy, Evan O'Leary and Rua Murphy.
They go forward to the next round of the National Credit Union Quiz.





St Brigid's Crosses









Grandparent's Day


JJC
CF



Coláiste Íosagáin Baile Átha Cliath



Turas na Saoithe

Cuireadh tús spioradálta agus machnamhach leis an athbhliain nuair a tháinig an scoil le chéile chun ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar Nollaig na mBan agus ar Thuras na Saoithe ar 6ú Eanáir. Pléadh an stair a bhaineann leis an lá, oidhreacht na ríthe (Caspar, Melchior , Balthasar) agus léiríodh na traidisiúin a bhaineann leis an lá i dtíortha eile. Pléadh rúin na hathbhliana freisin agus an tábhacht a bhaineann le meas a léiriú ort féin, ar chairde, ar an bpobal scoile agus ar an dtimpeallacht agus muid ag tosú amach ar "thús nua" na bliana.





Cúrsa Spioradálta le Bliain 1

Le tús spraíúil, suaimhneach a chur le mí Eanáir, d'fhreastail daltaí Bhliain 1 ar chúrsa spioradálta. Is iad ord De la Salle ó Bhaile Formaid a eagraíonn an cúrsa álainn seo ina ndéanann na daltaí guí, machnamh agus siúlóid amuigh faoin aer. Bhí cuid mhaith craice agus spraoi ann ar an lá agus bhí deis acu am ciúin machnamhach a ghlacadh dóibh féin freisin.



Bricfeasta le Mary's Meals

Reáchtáladh ócáid tiomsaithe airgid ar son na carthanachta, Mary's Meals ar 20ú Eanáir. Thóg gach dalta scoile bia don bhricfeasta isteach ar scoil agus itheadh agus roinneadh an bia le linn na chéad tréimhse ar maidin. Is carthanacht í Mary's Meals a chuireann bia ar fáil do phaistí scoile i dtíortha i mbéal forbartha. Baineadh an-taitneamh as an mbricfeasta agus tiomsaíodh cuid mhaith airgid ar an lá.



An Timpeallacht I gColáiste Íosagáin

Labhair na Captaein Timpeallachta, Thea Goodhue agus Maria Ní Uaithne, ag seoladh oifigiúil Chlár na Scoileanna Glasa i mí Eanáir. Rinne siad cur síos ar an obair atá idir lámha acu agus an scoil ag dul i dtreo ár bhfichiú Brat Glas. Téama na cainte agus na bliana ná: Bia agus Bithéagsúlacht – Saoránacht Domhanda. Bhí deis ag an gcoiste bualadh le scoileanna eile agus an leabhrán nua trí mheán na Gaeilge a fheiceáil. Lá den chéad scoth a bhí ann.



Díospóireacht as Béarla

Ghlac daltaí Choláiste Íosagáin páirt i gcomórtas díospóireachta, The Leinster Schools Debating Competition, eagraithe ag an L&H (COBÁC) agus the Hist (CnaT). Daltaí ó Bhliain 4-6 a ghlac páirt sa chomórtas seo agus bhí 107 scoil páirteach ann. D'éirigh go hiontach le dalta amháin go háirithe, Sorcha Borland (Bl. 6), a chuaigh ar aghaidh go dtí an babhta ceathrú ceannais. Rún thar a bheith dúshlánach agus suimiúil a bhí aici sa bhabhta seo - "This House, as the government of a newly decolonised country, would seek to appease rather than oppose their former colonial rulers."



An Seó Bóthair i gColáiste Íosagáin

Rinne daltaí na hIdirbhliana machnamh agus tobsmaointeoireacht mar gheall ar thábhacht na Gaeilge agus na féidearthachtaí í a úsáid taobh amuigh den suíomh scoile nuair a tháinig an Seó Bóthair go dtí Coláiste Íosagáin i mí Eanáir. Is ceardlann idirghníomhach í an Seó Bóthair, eagraithe ag Conradh na Gaeilge, a spreagann daltaí chun smaointeoireacht chriticiúil a dhéanamh maidir lena dtuairimí i leith na teanga. Rinneadh plé leis na daltaí faoi na háiteanna ar féidir leo an Ghaeilge a úsáid, faoina gcearta teanga, faoi na deiseanna fostaíochta agus cúrsaí tríú leibhéal atá ar fáil. Ba cheardlann thar a bheith suimiúil í.

Éachtaí na nDaltaí

Comhghairdeas le Rosa Ní Choisteala ó Bhliain 1 Bréanann, a bhuaigh duais scríbhneoireachta ag Scoil Gheimhridh Joe Steve i gCois Fharraige ag tús na bliana. Comhghairdeas freisin lenár n-iardhaltaí, Aifric Ní Ghloinn, Aoife Ní Ghiolláin, Louise Ní Chrotaigh agus Shona Ní Shionóid, ar bronnadh Teastas Gradam Iontrála orthu i gColáiste na Tríonóide ar an 22ú Eanáir. Táimid an-bhródúil astu!





Coláiste Choilm Swords

Despite the awful weather to start the year, the ERST charter continues to remind us of the light our students bring to the world around us.

In Coláiste Choilm, three elements were in particular focus this term:
· Excellence in Teaching and Learning – with our recent graduates collecting awards from their universities.
· Nurturing Faith, Christian Spirituality and Gospel based Values. As our senior students enjoy the chance to explore their faith and share it with others.
· Promoting Partnership. Working closely with St. Cronan's Parish, Brackenstown, Swords.

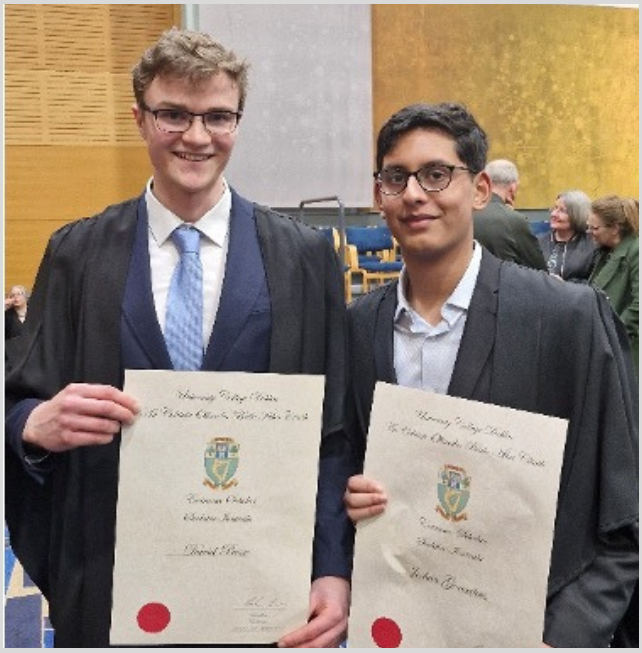
Entrance Scholarship Awards (Excellence in Teaching and Learning)

Students from the class of 2025 Coláiste Choilm Swords were awarded entrance scholarships in two universities. These were awarded in recognition of their outstanding results in the Leaving Certificate Examinations; achieving over 600 points.

Conor Roode who is now reading for a B.Sc in Actuarial Mathematics in Dublin City University, received his award from Professor Dáire Keogh, President of Dublin City University. Professor Keogh is one of the leading authors on the life of our founder, Blessed Edmund Rice.



Professor Keogh, joined Principal Cathal Boyle and Conor's parents for a photo with Conor before the ceremony.



David Besse and Joshua Gonsalves were awarded entrance scholarships from University College Dublin.

David is now reading Engineering while Joshua is reading Computer Science.

David and Joshua are pictured below after receiving their parchments from Deputy Registrar of the University, Professor Maire Clarke in a formal ceremony in the O'Reilly Hall, UCD.



Joining their parents were a very proud Principal and Deputy Principal.



Taizé and Faith Sharing in St. Cronan's Church
(Nurturing Faith, Christian Spirituality and Gospel based Values.)
(Promoting Partnership)

Congratulations to Louis Hickey, Matthew Harvey and Ryan Reynolds who have begun their journey to become a Minister of the Eucharist. The 4th year students are pictured with the Rev. Fr. Richard Sheehy after they delivered t he liturgy of the word at 10am mass in St. Cronan's Church and then began their community engagement.



Catholic Schools' Week 2026 – Grandparents Mass

As part of Catholic Schools' Week 2026, the 4th year class organised a special mass with Fr. Sheehy to celebrate the role grandparents' play in their lives.

The symbols presented at the start of mass included:
A compass and a torch – a sign of the direction our grandparents give us.
A photo album to symbolise the memories we make with our grandparents.
A book, representing the knowledge our grandparents impart to us.
A candle, burning to remind of the presence of all those grandparents who have gone before us, but whose presence is all around us.



Meanwhile 5th and 6th year students are also helping to run a Taizé prayer service once a month in St. Cronan's Church.

They help to set up and also deliver bidding prayers through the service.



The boys are pictured below following the end of the prayer service.



They then joined some students from Loreto College Swords and St. Finian's Community College in faith sharing over pizza in the parish centre.