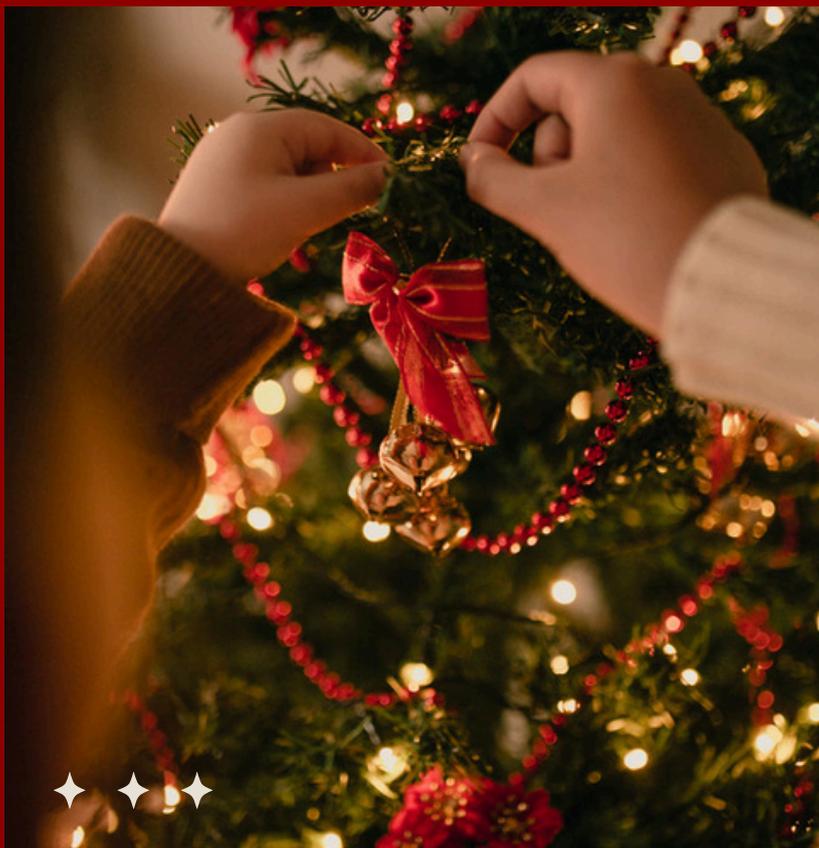


ESÍOL



WARM GREETINGS

May this Christmas bring peace and happiness to you and your family.



THANK YOU

Thanks to all our schools that have submitted articles for our network magazine. It is wonderful to see Edmund Rice education in action in our schools around the country.

Christmas holds a special significance in Catholic schools as a time to reflect on the central Christian message of hope, love, and the birth of Jesus. It offers a meaningful opportunity for students and staff to deepen their understanding of the Gospel, engage in prayer and liturgy, and celebrate the values of compassion, generosity, and community.

LOOKING AHEAD



We wish all of you a very happy New Year. May it be peaceful for everyone, especially for those who are currently experiencing war and violence.



SPECIAL MESSAGE

"Christmas is not as much about opening presents as it is about opening our hearts."

Greetings from Edmund Rice Schools Trust

Christmas

As we approach the season of Christmas, we are invited once again into one of the most sacred and hope-filled moments of the Catholic calendar. Christmas calls us to pause, to reflect, and to welcome the light of Christ into our lives and our communities. It is a time when the message at the heart of our faith—love, compassion, and renewal—comes into sharp and joyful focus.

In each of our Edmund Rice schools, this spirit is made visible daily in the generosity, creativity and care that shape the experience of our students and the wider school community.

In this edition of eSiol, we are delighted to showcase the many ways our schools continue to embody the Edmund Rice tradition through service, inclusion, learning and faith. The stories and reflections shared here give powerful expression to what it means to offer a Catholic education grounded in justice, community and the belief in the dignity of every person.

I extend my sincere thanks to our school leaders, staff and students for your unwavering commitment throughout the year and for the remarkable work you do to nurture living faith in our school communities. Your dedication ensures that the values of the Gospel and the spirit of Edmund Rice remain vibrant and meaningful for the young people entrusted to our care. Thank you also to all who contributed articles for this edition—your willingness to share your experiences enriches our network and strengthens the bonds across our 96 schools.

As we celebrate Christmas and look with hope to the year ahead, may the peace and joy of Christ be with you and your communities.

Gerry Bennett
Chief Executive

Contributors

1. High School Clonmel
2. Christian Brothers College Kilkenny
3. Scoil Íosagáin Limerick
4. Doon CBS Primary School
5. Coláiste Mhichíl Sexton Street Limerick
6. Coláiste Éamann Rís Wexford
7. Ardscoil Rís Limerick
8. Coláiste Íosagáin BAC
9. St Mary's Academy Carlow
10. Woodbrook College Bray
11. Rice College Westport
12. Ardscoil na Mara Tramore
13. Coláiste Choilm Swords
14. CBS Roscommon
15. St Mary's CBS Portlaoise
16. Oatlands College
17. Naas CBS
18. Rice College Ennis
19. Edmund Rice Secondary School Carrick on Suir
20. Coláiste Éamann Rís Cork
21. Dungarvan CBS
22. Mount Sion Primary School
23. Christian Brothers College Cork
24. Coláiste Éanna ublin
25. Coláiste Rís Dundalk
26. Midleton CBS
27. Drimnagh Castle CBS Secondary School
28. Edmund Rice College Dublin
29. New Ross CBS
30. Waterpark College Waterford
31. Coláiste Eoin BAC
32. North Monastery Coeducational Secondary School Cork

High School Clonmel

“Pedalling for Hope, Justice and Children’s Rights”

Cycle for Gaza: CBS High School students mark World Children’s Day with compassion and action raising over €4000

On November 20th, World Children’s Day, students from the CBS High School transformed awareness into action through a student-led cyclothon, Cycle for Gaza. The event aligned with the UN-recognised day dedicated to promoting children’s rights, wellbeing and international solidarity. Students used the occasion to voice their concerns about global issues affecting young people, particularly the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.



The cyclothon was the latest in a series of student and staff initiatives focused on advocacy and empathy. As part of their 5th Year SPHE curriculum, students had been exploring the theme of community advocacy, culminating in this ambitious public demonstration of support.

Over recent years, humanitarian reports have highlighted the severe impact of conflict on children in Gaza. According to international sources, ‘a Palestinian child had been killed every 52 minutes, with more than 18,512 students and 791 teachers reported dead.’ Ninety percent of Gaza’s population has been displaced and for the third consecutive year, children were unable to attend school. As UNRWA poignantly stated: “Education is more than learning—it is a dream and hope for a better future.”



Earlier in May, over 300 CBS High School students participated in a demonstration calling for a ceasefire, organised under the Teachers for Palestine initiative, Let's Talk About Palestine. The event aimed to humanise and contextualise Palestinian history and culture while responding to the escalating crisis in Gaza and the West Bank following the October 7th attacks by Hamas. The situation remains under investigation by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which is examining allegations of violations of the Genocide Convention by the Israeli Government.

In October, staff members hosted a bake sale, raising €1,140 for Concern's Cook for Gaza appeal. The fundraiser followed the declaration of famine in Gaza on August 22nd, with aid agencies warning of rising avoidable deaths due to the Israeli government breaching international humanitarian law by imposing restrictions on aid flows into the region.



On World Children's Day, students channelled their compassion into a symbolic act of solidarity. They collectively cycled 1,060 kilometres—10 times the approximate perimeter of Gaza—on stationary bikes placed at four public Clonmel locations: the Poppyfields, Fetch Coffee, the Post Office and the Showgrounds Shopping Centre. The students braced the bitter cold and were wholeheartedly supported by the community of Clonmel. Through words of encouragement and bolstered by motivating online comments to their idonate page and the school's social media pages, the students were able to succeed in their cycling target and in doing so raised an astounding €4053. Having surpassed their target of €3000 for Uisce for Gaza, an Irish-led initiative providing clean drinking water to Gazan communities through desalination projects, the remaining funds from the cyclothon will be directed to the relatives of Clonmel-based Palestinian families, who remain in Gaza suffering inhuman living conditions for them and their children.

The students' efforts were supported by generous donations from Camida Ltd, MH Engineering Ltd., Medite Ltd. and Phoenix Strength and Conditioning, which helped make the event possible.

Teachers described the project as a powerful example of youth-led advocacy. "It's our hope that events like this help to remind students that change often starts small. When they act with compassion, their efforts can have a real and direct impact on the lives of others." said Coordinator PJ McCooles.

On World Children's Day, Clonmel's young advocates didn't just cycle—they stood up for dignity, hope and the rights of children everywhere.





Student Leadership

Congratulations to Sean Doverman who won the Rotary Youth Leadership competition in Kilkenny recently.

Sean will go on to represent both the school and Rotary Ireland in the European Parliament in Strasbourg where he will act as an MEP.

Well done Seán- an amazing achievement!

Basketball

Our u19 basketball team won the South East League Final after an impressive team performance in SETU Arena in Waterford today. They will now progress to the All Ireland playoffs after Christmas.



Senior Football

Well done to our senior football team & management on a great win against IS Kenmare on a scoreline of 5-13 to 3-11. They now play Clonakilty in the Quarter final of the Corn Uí Mhuiri after Christmas.



CBC Kilkenny

Hurling

The winter term may not have brought snow just yet, but it has delivered a flurry of success and Christmas spirit to CBC Kilkenny!

Following on from our Rice Cup team's success in reclaiming the silverware for the first time since 2012 in the Jim Langton hurling tournament, our junior hurling team secured back-to-back Leinster titles on a scoreline of 4-14 to 1-16 after an epic final with Good Counsel College in Carlow.



This has produced a tremendous buzz around the school, a feel-good factor only heightened by the individual sporting success of 6th Year student, Dylan Burke, who represented Ireland in the International Lifesaving Federation's Orange Cup in Rotterdam and TY student, Matthew Tuohy, who was selected for the Irish FIBA Youth EuroBasket squad.

Congratulations to all our athletes across all disciplines in the school, we are extremely proud of you all.



Sporting success was mirrored in academic success this term where we were delighted to see TY student, Rory O'Reilly, selected to represent Kilkenny in the regional final of the Rotary Club Youth Leadership Competition and to acknowledge the achievement of Alex Cullen on receiving a Quercus Entrance Scholarship to UCC in recognition of his exceptional Leaving Certificate results, in addition to a UCC Sports Scholarship for Athletics.

We also noted with great pride the achievement of Conor Harte and his teacher Mr Eoin Menton. Conor was awarded a National Certificate from the ETTA in recognition of his outstanding Junior Cycle result in Graphics. Congratulations also to recently retired vice-principal, Ms Lucy Ryan, who was honoured at the National Gaisce President's Award Leaders ceremony in recognition of her dedication to the movement in Kilkenny over the past fifteen years.



Finally, Christmas arrived in CBC Kilkenny this month and it brought all its festive favourites, such as Christmas Jumper Day, our annual carol service and Shoe-box Appeal. Many thanks to all the students and staff who bring these charity initiatives to fruition year after year and help us as a community to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. The staff and students of CBC Kilkenny would like to wish all our fellow ERST schools a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.



Scoil Íosagáin Sexton Street Limerick

Scoil Iosagain C.B.S., Sexton St., Limerick, five a-side soccer team that participated in the Limerick City primary schools indoor five a-side soccer tournament held at Mary Immaculate College of Education, Limerick, and sponsored by An Garda Síochána, pictured with Garda Mark Gennery of Roxboro Road, Garda Station, Limerick.



Doon CBS Primary School

Fionn O'Brien and Oisín Ryan of Doon C.B.S. Primary School who played on the East Limerick Primary Schools football team in the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol Sarsfield Cup football competition.





Pupils from Doon C.B.S. Primary School who performed a nativity play at St.Patrick's Parish Church, Doon, Co. Limerick.



At the celebration marking the 75 years anniversary of the opening of the Holy Rosary Parish Church, Ennis Road, Limerick, in December 1950.

—
Conor Nee and Br. Liam Ryan,
Christian Brothers.

Coláiste Mhichíl Limerick

JP McManus Scholarship Winners

This term, Coláiste Mhichíl students were honoured at a special evening in the Adare Manor, recognising the academic achievements of 24 students through the JP McManus Scholarship Awards. The event awarded 24 students, announcing the 2023, 2024 and 2025 winners of the J.P. McManus Scholarship Awards. Since 1997, each of the top eight Leaving Certificate students in a given year has received a scholarship from the McManus family to the value of €27,000.



International Day Celebrations 2025

This year's event saw students from over 40 countries host a stand, make posters, play music, wear national dress, and prepare and cook national dishes for all to sample. International Day gives Coláiste Mhichíl the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the heritage of our student body. A massive effort is put in by staff, students and their parents to make this celebration possible. Well done Mr Long and Mr Salem for organising this event.



Sporting Success

Congratulations to the U16s Basketball Team who won the South West C Basketball Final v Coláiste Chiaran Croom. Thank you to Ms Kavanagh and Mr Naughton for their hard work and dedication. U19s badminton team won both of their league games this term against Thomond College and Glenstal Abbey. Well done! Thank you to Mr Waters for his hard work and dedication.





Europe Direct Soapbox Public Speaking Competition

A massive congratulations to 5th year student Pranav Balamurugan for winning 3rd place at the Europe Direct Soapbox public speaking competition on 12th November. The competition took place at Limerick City Library and Europe Direct Centre with over 50 students from schools all over Limerick taking part. There were 40 entrants in Pranav's category and his speech was highly praised by the judges for both his excellent delivery and interesting content which was based on the motion - "Likes, Lies, and Legal Limits": Is It Time the EU Banned Social Media for Under-16s? Congratulations again to Pranav, a fantastic achievement.



Parent Classes

Congratulations to all parents who received their certificates of attendance at the Parent Health and Beauty Class in Coláiste Mhichíl, many thanks to the tutor Maeve McNamara for delivering an excellent term of classes. Thank you to HSCLO Ms O'Connor for organising the classes.



Christmas Jumper Fundraiser

Well done to the Student Council, Ms. Hennessy, and Ms. Breathnach for organising this year's Christmas Jumper Day fundraiser in aid of local Limerick charities. The school was filled with festive cheer as students and staff donned their Christmas jumpers, helping to spread seasonal spirit throughout the building. A big thank you and well done to everyone involved for supporting such a worthwhile cause.

Coláiste Éamann Rís Wexford



Principal's Update & School Campus Update:

Best wishes to all in our school community for Christmas 2025. I hope that 2026 brings good health and happiness. I would like to express my thanks to the staff for their hard work and commitment over the last twelve months. I would also like to wish all our students continued success in their endeavours. Thank you also to your parents for their support. Greetings to all our past pupils at home and abroad. Thank you to the Dr Kieran Donohoe and the PPA team for their ongoing help and support to the school as they continue to give back in so many ways. Ní neart gur chur le chéile.

Work is ongoing to advance our school extension project. The Design Team led by Patrick Keating Kearney of Neville Conroy Architects has been finalising the design plans and it is hoped to make an application for planning permission for the project to Wexford County Council ahead of the Christmas break. An application for funding towards the upgrade of equipment in the second woodwork room and other equipment for Art and P.E. has been successful so we are currently preparing tenders to purchase same.



Well done to St. Martins GAA Club – Leinster Senior Hurling Champions:

We are so proud of past pupils Mikey Coleman, Joe Barrett, Joe Coleman, Zach Breslin, Callum McCleane and Oisín Waters together with their coach Willie Cleary who is a great friend to the school, and the role they played in helping their club St. Martin's win the Leinster Senior Hurling title.

Zambia Immersion Project – June 2025.

The Wexford CBS Zambia Immersion Project 2025 has been a remarkable journey of dedication, learning and global citizenship. The project began in March 2024, when 16 students were selected to take part in this unique experience. From the very beginning, these students committed themselves to fundraising efforts to make the trip a reality, engaging with the school community and beyond to raise vital funds for ZAMDA Ireland. Over the months, their hard work and commitment paid off in an extraordinary way, with a total of €32,000 raised. These funds are crucial in supporting ZAMDA Ireland's ongoing work in Kabwe, Zambia, particularly at Sables Nua Primary School. The money raised has gone toward running the school, improving facilities and most significantly, supporting the construction of a shelter for street boys, some of Zambia's most vulnerable children.

During their three-week immersion in June 2025, the students and their accompanying teachers, Conor Byrne, Emma Goff, Steven McMahon & Christine Martin undertook a wide range of activities at Sables Nua.



They repainted classrooms and the administration block, levelled the play area, completed the preschool classroom with colourful educational designs and assisted with the building of the new shelter. Every student also took part in home-based visits, gaining a deeper understanding of life in Makululu compound and the challenges faced by the local community.

The group also visited Ranchod Hospice, donating essential items including a printer, a chest freezer and an office chair and spent time with Dominion FC, a local football club founded by former Sables Nua pupils, providing jerseys, boots, footballs, cones and goal nets. Their experience extended beyond Kabwe, with a visit to CBS Secondary School St. Raphael's in Livingstone, a spectacular tour of Victoria Falls, a river cruise on the Chobe River in Botswana and an overnight safari in Chobe National Park.



This project has been about much more than fundraising and volunteering. It has given students a unique opportunity to witness the realities of life in another part of the world, develop empathy, resilience and teamwork and make a real and lasting impact on the lives of children and families in Kabwe.

The Wexford CBS community is extremely proud of the students for their commitment, enthusiasm and dedication throughout this project. Their contribution to ZAMDA Ireland and the children of Kabwe will have a lasting effect and the experience itself will leave a lifelong impression on all involved.

Bring on 2027!





Congratulations to Our Young Economist of the Year

We are thrilled to announce that Mir Hasibullah Zia, our 5th Year student, has been awarded the prestigious Young Economist of the Year title at the 2025 national awards ceremony held at Atlantic Technological University Sligo. This remarkable achievement highlights Hasib's exceptional talent and dedication to the field of economics. Hasib's award-winning project, titled 'The Dependency Trap: How Ireland's Reliance on Multinationals Deepens Economic Imbalances' explored the increasing over-reliance of the Irish economy on foreign direct investment, demonstrating a profound understanding of economic principles and their real-world applications. The project stood out among numerous entries for its originality, depth of research, and clarity of presentation.



The Young Economist of the Year competition, organised by Oide, is a national initiative that encourages secondary school students across Ireland to engage with economics in innovative ways.

This year's awards ceremony featured over a hundred entries from students nationwide, showcasing the growing interest and talent in the field of economics among young people.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Hasib and Daniel Fiodorov Dillion who helped Hassib to edit his project, for this outstanding accomplishment. Your hard work and passion for economics are truly inspiring. This achievement not only brings pride to Wexford CBS, but also sets a shining example for fellow students to explore and excel in the field of economics.

We wish both lads continued success in future academic endeavours and thank them for representing Wexford CBS with such distinction.

Career Fair 2025.

What an incredible night! We are genuinely overwhelmed by the support and goodwill shown at our Career Fair 2025 in conjunction with Loreto Secondary School. Over 100 participants from a wide range of career backgrounds, alongside representatives from colleges and universities, generously gave their time and expertise. Our students from Wexford CBS and Loreto Wexford gained so much because of you!

A huge thank you to every participant as your enthusiasm, professionalism and encouragement made this Careers Fair truly exceptional.

We are so grateful to our Guidance Departments, both Parents' Councils, our Past Pupils' Association, our TYs, student and staff helpers, and, of course, our organising committee for bringing this event to life.

We are incredibly proud of how far this Careers Fair has come. From an online Zoom event in 2020 to joining forces with Loreto Wexford in 2024 and now seeing it grow year after year. This year's event was a testament to what collaboration and community spirit can achieve.

Thank you, everyone! We cannot express our gratitude enough.



Past Staff Reflection - Seán Ahearne – Bokerboys Abroad.

The Boker's Far-Flung Sons...

The opportunity for students to travel while in Wexford CBS is something that I always held dear. It offers an immeasurable experience to broaden one's horizons and gives a taste of what awaits in the big world after they leave The Boker.

On Graduation Night, the students are reminded by the principal: it is unlikely that, as a group, they will ever meet again. They will go their separate ways and spread across the globe. So, when Ruth (Ms. Ivers) and I travel abroad, there is a chance that we will bump into some of them. While the world is shrinking in terms of accessibility, it is still a surprise when it actually happens.

This was the case on our current trip. While eating in a night market in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Ruth's facial expression changed; something behind me had also changed. It was Ian Bennett, who was simply strolling through the same market. Small world indeed! Stories of our adventures were swapped with much laughter. Listening to his itinerary was heart-warming as he explores and goes in search of new cultures to experience. We especially shared our delight in the local delicious delicacies. Incidentally, I also bumped into Ian in Paris, at the Rugby World Cup in 2023. Coincidence or what?



Onwards to Vietnam. I knew we had two resident past pupils there: the two Jacks – Robinson in Hanoi and Creane in Da Nang. Arrangements were made and meet-ups occurred.

again displaying Bokerboy qualities, both are successful and thriving in their respective environments. Both are involved in education, and both are offering their expertise in the sporting world, coaching local talent.

I felt so proud as they showed us around their new worlds. Immersing into the Vietnamese way of life seemed so natural to them. New homes and families established, and great maturity in their life decisions. Both had recent visits from their parents. They too, I'm sure, are very proud of their sons' achievements.

While in Hanoi, former Wexford CBS chaplain, Brian Whelan, was also in town. Again, reminiscing was the order of the evening, but strange to be doing it so far away from Wexford, considering we had not met for over 10 years.



If the previous three meetings were arranged, the next one was completely random, and you just wonder how mysteriously the universe operates. Having motorbiked from Da Nang to Hoi An, we were fuelling up for the return journey. The forecourt was busy, with numerous bikes and heads under helmets all vying to get their fill and move on in the 30-degree heat.

Ruth noticed a group and thought they might be from Wexford. Of course, being curious and aware of the possibility of Bokerboys being among them, we cycled towards them. All faces took time to realise what was happening. In front of us were Shane Hall, Shane Bergin, Emmett Nolan and Finian Coghlan. Four Bokerboys and two of their former teachers in a petrol station in Vietnam. What are the chances?

We parked up, arranged a plan, and headed to Da Nang to a lovely beach-side restaurant. So many stories and so much laughter! Again, the pride in seeing these young men living out their best life: unafraid, confident in dealing with issues that arise on the road, and, above all, happy. Great comrades on the way to new adventures in Australia. It was so satisfying to be in their company and witness what was evolving in their worlds as they revealed their ambitious plans for their futures.

May they, and every other Bokerboy who travels the globe, enjoy all the experiences our marvellous planet has to offer.

Travel is another great educator that enhances the enduring Bokerboy connections.

Sean Ahearne. Wexford CBS 1982 - 2018.

Christmas Fair & Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Self Help Africa.

Our annual Christmas Fair, organised by the Enterprise Department and TY students, was a fantastic success this year! The event brought together our school community in a truly festive spirit, with visitors including parents, friends from Loreto and Presentation Secondary Schools in Wexford and many of our own students and staff.

TY students showcased their entrepreneurial skills with a variety of stalls, offering handmade gifts, festive treats, and fun activities for all. The energy and creativity on display were incredible and the fair proved to be a wonderful celebration of our students' hard work and talents.

In addition, our Christmas Jumper Day was a huge hit! Students and staff donned their most festive jumpers, raising vital funds for Self Help Africa. The day was full of fun, colour and generosity, showing once again the caring spirit of our school community. A huge thank you to everyone who supported these events - your participation helped make them memorable and successful.







Europe Direct Soapbox Debating Championships

Huge congratulations to Mir Hasibullah who is the national champion in the Over 17 Europe Direct Soapbox Debating Championships! Seven regional winners competed for the national prize and CBS 6th year student Hasib emerged as the overall winner and received €1,000! The Finals were held in the College of Physicians, Dublin and were sponsored by the European Commission.

Ardscoil Rís Limerick



Dean Ryan Champions 2025

On Dec 1st Ardscoil Rís were crowned Dean Ryan U17 A Hurling champions, the school's fourth Munster U17 A Hurling title. Both sides battled it out to the end having to endure the desperate weather conditions. Both teams showed grit and determination. Ardscoil Rís had to dig deep in the second half having gone 5 points down to over-come this talented Cork CBC outfit. Resilience, team-work, good side-line decisions and a full panel effort helped Ardscoil to victory with a final score of ASR 1.11 CBC 0.12 Congratulations to our players and mentors. Our school is incredibly proud of the team and mentors and their achievement stands as an inspiration to the entire school community.



National SciFest Event

Our young scientists proudly represented Ardscoil Rís at this year's SciFest National Event, showcasing curiosity, creativity, and a commitment to academic excellence. Their projects demonstrated rigorous scientific thinking and a willingness to explore new ideas. By presenting their work to national judges, past pupils and their peers they modelled transformational leadership and inspire other students within our school community to get involved in other future events.



Science Week brought a great buzz to our classrooms, particularly during the much anticipated Science Quizzes. Students worked in teams, shared ideas, and brought great energy and enthusiasm to the challenge. Our Senior Science teams enjoyed the ISTA Senior Science Quiz Regional Round in TUS this evening as part of Science Week. All activities celebrated the joy of learning.

Our students are currently hard at work preparing their projects for this year's Stripe Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2026. Best of luck!!

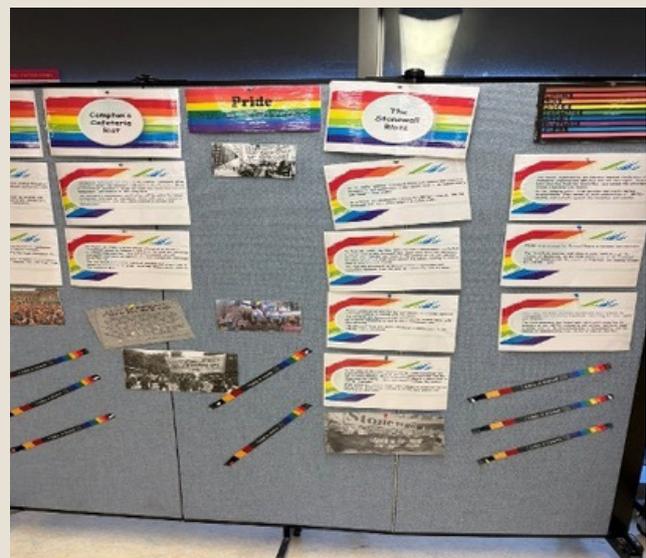




Stand Up Awareness Week

Stand Up Awareness Week allowed our whole school community to come together in support of safety, dignity, and respect for all. Through in-class workshops, student led workshops and school wide displays, we strengthened our commitment to creating a caring community where every student feels valued and welcomed.

The week highlighted the importance of partnership between staff, students and wider local organisations in promoting inclusion; ensuring every member of our school community feels seen and supported.





Sculling Competition

Congratulations to Sixth-Year student Jack Rafferty, who delivered an exceptional performance - the fastest single sculler in a large and highly competitive field at the recent Ireland Rowing Trials at the National Rowing Centre. The new head of high performance references "challenging standards and culture". It is a remarkable achievement at national level and a testament to Jack's commitment, discipline and talent.



ERI Youth Ambassadors / ERI Group in Action



Our ERI Youth Ambassadors continue to bring the spirit of Edmund Rice alive through service, advocacy, and collaboration by organising social justice initiatives with the school community, presenting workshops for first years, or leading awareness campaigns, the group embodies our commitment to promoting partnership and building a caring community. Our two Youth Ambassadors are looking forward to participating in their training with other ER schools in the new year. Our ERI group is currently busy helping organise the Novas Food Appeal.



Students from Ard Scoil Rís who participated in the liturgy celebrating the 75 years anniversary of the opening of Holy Rosary Church, Ennis Road, Limerick: Eoin Moore, Thomas Hickey and Enriks Babko.

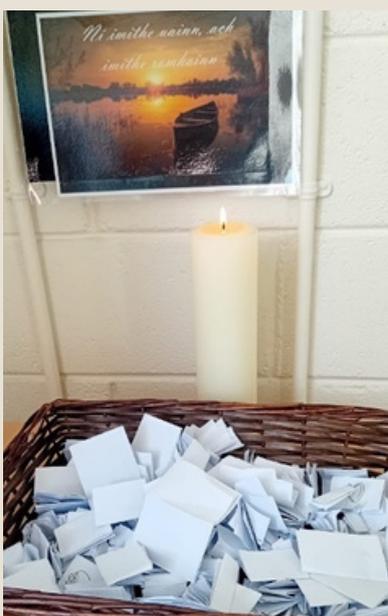
Coláiste Íosagáin

Tá an Nollaig linn agus is cinnte go raibh luachanna an tséisúir le haimsiú i gColáiste Íosagáin le déanaí; cairdeas, áthas, flaitiúlacht agus muintearas. Seo duit, achoimre ar imeachtaí na scoile ó mhí Dheireadh Fómhair ar aghaidh:

Spioradáltacht an tSéasúir

Rinneadh machnamh cuimhneacháin le linn mhí na Samhna i ndilchuimhne na ndaoine atá imithe romhainn. Fágadh ciseán cuimhneacháin amach le go mbeidh pobal na scoile in ann paidreacha a rá agus nóta a scríobh in ómós dóibh siúd atá imithe ar shlí na fírinne.

Agus mí na Nollag linn, tá ceiliúradh anois á dhéanamh ar an Aidbhint i gColáiste Íosagáin. Tá bláthfhleasc Aidbhinte le coinnle lasta ann le feiceáil i Halla Íosagáin agus an Cró Nollag ag an bhfáiltiú scoile. Ar Aoine an 5ú, rinneadh searmanas Aidbhinte le ceol, le paidreacha agus le míniú ar shiombalachas an mhainséir.



Cuireadh i gcuimhne do na daltaí gurbh é Naomh Proinsias as Assisi a chuir tús le traidisiún an Chró Nollag a mhaisiú san Eoraip i ndiaidh dó cuairt a thabhairt ar Bheithil. Léiríonn an Cró Nollag an tábhacht a bhaineann le muintearas, le fáilteachas agus le cairdeas le linn laethanta dorcha an gheimhridh.

Cuairt na Spásairí

Bhí sceitimíní na cruinne ar phobal scoile Choláiste Íosagáin lár mhí na Samhna nuair a tháinig an bheirt spásairí, Dr. Norah Patten agus Dr. Shawna Pandya, ar cuairt chun na scoile. Chuir na captaein scoile, Éabha Scollard agus Kate Nic Giolla Deacair, agallamh orthu os comhair na ndaltaí agus na múinteoirí agus labhair an bheirt spásaire faoina dtaithe ag obair in earnáil na spáseitilte. Is Éireannach í Dr. Norah Patten, as Maigh Eo, agus í le bheith ar an gcéad Éireannach sa spás nuair a bheidh sí ar bhord ar láinseáil spásárthaigh Virgin Galactic ag deireadh na bliana seo chugainn. Is spásaire ó Cheanada í Dr. Shawna Pandya agus beidh sí ar an eitilt chéanna in éineacht le Dr. Patten.



Labhair an bheirt acu faoin obair a dhéanann siad ar thurgnaimh spáis agus faoina dtaithí ag obair in earnáil na haerloingseoireachta. Labhair Dr. Patten faoi chomhlachtaí Éireannacha atá ag obair ar thaighde i dtionscal an spáis agus chuir sí i gcuimhne don phobal scoile nach gá do dhaltaí a bhfuil suim acu san aerloingseoireacht dul thar sáile a thuilleadh le tabhairt faoin obair sin.

Níl amhras ar bith ann ach go ndeachaigh an chuairt go mór i bhfeidhm ar an lucht éisteachta agus beirt bhan spreagúil ag taispeáint dóibh gur féidir leo a gcuid aislingí a bhaint amach.

Is i Halla Spóirt Eoin agus Íosagáin a rinneadh an chaint agus an halla maisithe go mion ag buíon oibrithe agus ealaíontóirí le cabhair óna gcomrádaí, Julian Hills. Thóg siad mion-spásárthach Delta don ócáid, rud a bhí mar chúlra oiriúnach ar an stáitse. Guíonn muid gach rath ar an dturas.



Obair Fhóiréinseach

Bhí deis ag rang bitheolaíochta Bhliain 6 eolaíocht fhóiréinseach a dhéanamh mí na Samhna nuair a chuir Amgen Biotech Experience trealamh imscrúdaithe ar fáil dóibh. Rinneadh ionsamhlúchán ar imscrúdú ar fhóiréinsic choireachta le linn na ceardlainne agus baineadh an-taitneamh as an eispéireas. Buíochas le hIníon Uí Chatháin a d'eagraigh.



Obair Charthanachta

SVP

Ó mhí na Samhna, tá baill 3 Bóinn tar éis a bheith ag obair go díograiseach, ag eagrú crannchuir le hairgead a thiomsú ar son an SVP. Tá traidisiún láidir oibre carthanachta ag an scoil agus le blianta fada anuas, tá grúpa ó Bhliain 3 tar éis airgead a thiomsú ar son an SVP le cabhrú lena bhfeachtas Nollag. Tá duaiseanna iontacha bailithe ag an rang idir dearbháin pictiúrlainne, dearbháin gruagaire, ciseáin duaiseanna, dearbháin bialainne agus neart eile. Beidh tarraingt an chrannchuir ag titim amach sa tseachtain deireanach scoile.

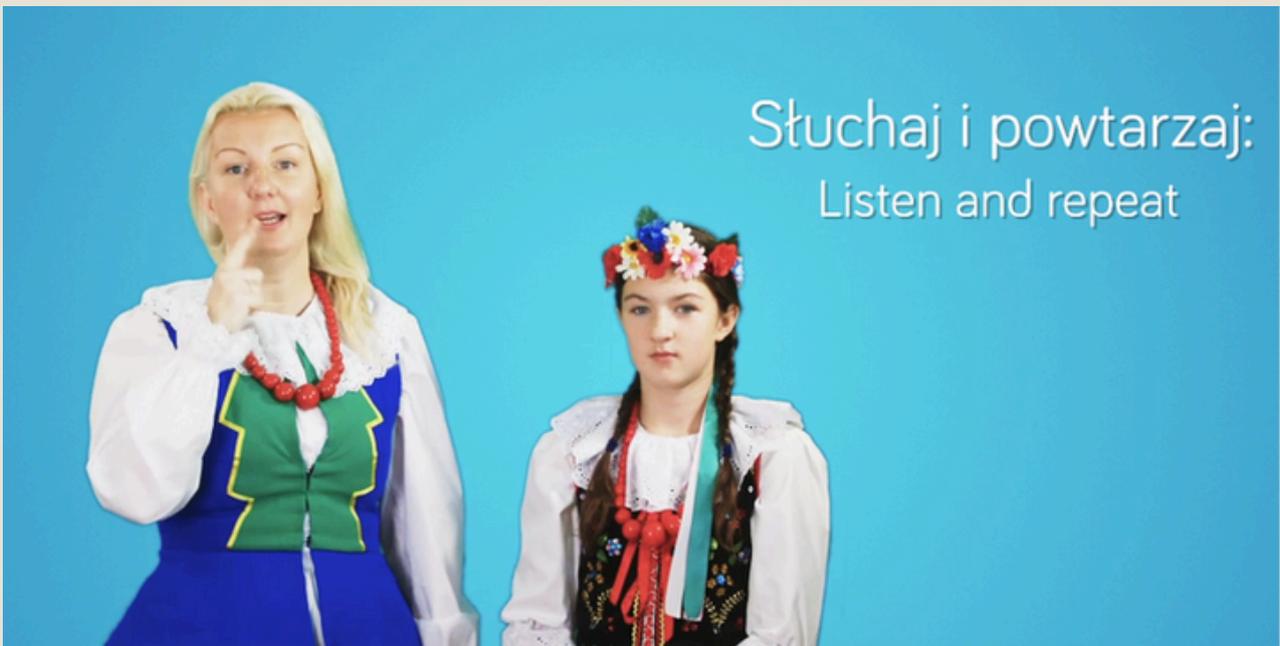
Childline

Bhailigh lucht na hIdirbhliana le chéile i lár na cathrach le hairgead a thiomsú ar son na carthanachta, Childline, ag tús na míosa seo ar an 2ú Nollaig. An-eispéireas ar a fad a bhí ann agus os cionn €3500 tiomsaithe acu.



Smaoinigh ar Theangacha

Thit Seachtain "Smaoinigh ar Theangacha" amach i lár mhí na Samhna agus sraith imeachtaí iontacha eagraithe ag coiste eagrúcháin agus ag Iníon Uí Chonghaile. Rinneadh ceardlann Gearmáinise agus d'fhoghlaim daltaí Bhliain 1 faoi "Sankt Martinstag" nó Lá Naomh Máirtín. Rinneadh lóchrainn, mar is gnás do mhuintir na Gearmáine. Bhí comórtas bÁCála ann agus rinne daltaí na hIdirbhliana ceardlann Polainnise. Chomh maith leo sin, rinne daltaí na hIdirbhliana ceardlann ar theanga chomharthaíochta na hÉireann agus eagraíodh Tráth na gCeist freisin. An-seachtain ar fad a bhí ann.



Cúntóirí Teangacha

Fágfaidh an scoil slán ar ár gcúntóir Gearmáinise, Inthuja, ag deireadh na míosa seo. Bhí cúntóir Gearmáinise eile againn, Sofia, ag tús na bliana ar feadh dhá mhí. Bíonn na cúntóirí Gearmáinise thar a bheith cabhrach, ag cuidiú le foghlaim teangacha na ndaltaí. Bíonn sé mar chabhair dóibh éisteacht le cainteoir dúchasach Gearmánach agus cuireann siad go mór leis na ranganna. Danke schön, a chairde!



Sofia



Inthuja

Imeachtaí Idirbhliana

Ceoldráma faoi lánseol

Bhí trialacha, cleachtaí agus craic le feiscint timpeall na scoile le roinnt mhaith seachtainí anuas agus ceoldráma Eoin agus Íosagáin faoi lánseol. Tá pobal na scoileanna ag súil go mór le mí an Mhárta nuair a thabharfaidh na sluaite cuairt ar amharclann Eoin agus Íosagáin, sa Halla Spóirt le breathnú ar léiriú an cheoldráma, Mary Poppins.



Cainteanna agus gníomhaíochtaí suimiúla

Tugadh ábhar machnaimh do bhaill na hIdirbhliana le déanaí agus iad ag freastal ar chainteanna agus ag glacadh páirte i ngníomhaíochtaí éagsúla seach-churaclaim. Ghlac siad páirt i gceardlanna scríbhneoireachta, Fighting Words, agus d'fhreastail siad ar chaint mar gheall ar mhná ag obair in earnáil ITEM (Innealtóireacht, Teicneolaíocht, Eolaíocht, agus Matamaitic). Bhí an-spraoi acu agus iad ag tabhairt faoi dhúshlán GoQuest (cluichí foirne, bunaithe ar dhúshlán agus ar phuzail a réiteach) ag deireadh mhí na Samhna. Ar bharr orthu sin, chuala siad mar gheall ar fhadhbanna na bochtaineachta timpeall an domhain nuair a d'fhreastail siad ar chaint leis an aoichainteoir agus oibrí carthanachta, John O'Shea.



Club Leabhar as Gaeilge

Tá ag éirí go hiontach leis an gClub Leabhar agus cuid mhaith léitheoireachta ar siúl arís acu ó a bhí an briseadh lár téarma ann. Tá Club Leabhar Gaeilge na Sóisear agus Club Leabhar Gaeilge na Sinsear ag léamh go dícheallach. Tá an-phlé ar bun ar úrscéalta, údair, seánraí léitheoireachta éagsúla agus eile. Ár mbuíochas le COGG a dhéanann urraíocht ar Chlub Leabhar Gaeilge na Sóisear agus ár mbuíochas le hIníon Uí Choileáin a dhéanann bainistiú ar na clubanna seo.

Éachtaí na nDaltaí

Scoláireacht rámháiochta

Bhí an-cheiliúradh i gclub Rámháiochta na nGardaí i mí na Samhna nuair a bronnadh scoláireacht rámháiochta ar Emma Jane Ní Dhúgáin (Bliain 6). Scoláireacht iomlán 4 bliana go Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas atá ann, áit ina mbeidh sí ag staidéar ar an ailtireacht agus ag rámháiocht ar son na hollscoile. Comhghairdeas leat, Emma Jane!



Duaiseanna an Oireachtais

Comhghairdeas le Méabh Ní Cholmáin (Bliain 1) agus Kate Nic Giolla Deacair (Bliain 6) ar bronnadh duaiseanna Chomórtas Liteartha an Oireachtais orthu ag Oireachtas na Samhna i mBéal Feirste. Bhuaigh siad duaiseanna sna ranna, 'Greannán (Rang 6 - Bunscoileanna Lán-Ghaeilge & Gaeltachta)' agus 'Iriseoireacht (Faoi 18)'. Táimid an-bhródúil as a dtiomantas don Ghaeilge.



St Mary's Academy Carlow

GOAL Global Jersey Day

There was a sea of jerseys and smiles as Class 1H proudly took part in the GOAL Global fundraiser. From club colours to county pride, the classroom was brimming with bright kits, buzzing excitement, and a shared sense of purpose.

The students wore their jerseys to raise awareness and funds for GOAL Global, an organisation working to support communities facing poverty, crises, and inequality around the world. Through this simple but meaningful act, the students of 1H highlighted not only their favourite teams, but also their compassion and willingness to make a positive difference. It was a day full of fun, colour and community spirit, proving that even small actions can help create big change.



Cineáltas Showcase in Croke Park

Xander Reid, Adam Zych and James Andrade from CBS Carlow represented their school with pride at the National Cineáltas Showcase in Croke Park, where schools from across Ireland gathered to celebrate kindness, respect, inclusion, and anti-bullying initiatives. Wearing their school colours and speaking with confidence, the students engaged in meaningful discussion with the Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion, sharing their experiences and perspectives on what belonging in school truly means.



Throughout the morning, the boys highlighted how Cineáltas and the Action Plan on Bullying are making a difference in schools, spoke about the supports needed to ensure every student feels safe and valued, and emphasised the importance of student voice in shaping a positive school culture. Their contribution reflected maturity, leadership, and a strong commitment to building an inclusive environment for all. A sincere thank you to the Minister, along with the Department of Education and Youth, for providing a platform where students' voices are recognised and respected. Events like this remind us that kindness is powerful, inclusion matters, and that creating safe spaces in education is everyone's responsibility.

Carlow Pride of Place Award

St. Mary's Academy CBS is delighted to congratulate 1st Year student John Keogh (1H) on receiving a Carlow Pride of Place Special Recognition Award for Youth Participation 2025. John was honoured for his dedication and commitment to volunteering within his community, a remarkable achievement for such a young student.

At the awards ceremony, John proudly accepted his framed certificate, standing alongside local representatives who recognised the positive impact of his time, effort, and willingness to give back. His volunteering work reflects maturity, leadership, and a genuine desire to help others, demonstrating values that embody the spirit of our school.

We are incredibly proud of John here at St. Mary's Academy, Carlow. His contribution to the community is inspiring, and we look forward to watching him continue to grow, lead, and make a difference.



An Taisce Climate Ambassador Award

We are delighted to congratulate past pupil Franek Dobronski, who was recently recognised at An Taisce's annual Climate Ambassador Awards for his outstanding work, leadership, and commitment to environmental action. Franek proudly received his award at a special ceremony, reflecting the impact of his dedication both during and beyond his time here in St Mary's Academy CBS.

During his years with us, Franek played a key role in promoting student voice and climate awareness throughout the school, inspiring others to engage with sustainability, environmental responsibility, and positive change. His success is a testament to his hard work and passion for climate action, and we are incredibly proud to see him continue to lead and advocate for a greener future.



Carlow Lions Club Food Appeal

Members of our Peace and Justice group were busy spreading Christmas goodwill as they volunteered with the Carlow Lions Club Christmas Food Appeal, working across Tesco, Dunnes Stores and SuperValu to help collect donations for families in need within our community. Students gave their time to greet shoppers, gather food items, and help raise awareness of the appeal, showing

kindness, generosity and a strong sense of social responsibility. Their hard work will contribute to making Christmas brighter for households who may be struggling at this time of year.

We are incredibly proud of the students who represented our school with such positivity and compassion. A huge well done to everyone involved for helping to support others and for living out the true spirit of Christmas.





Languages Fair

Our school was alive with colour, music, and flavour as the MFL Department and students hosted a vibrant Languages Fair, celebrating the many languages and cultures that make up our school community. With stalls showcasing food, traditions, and language from around the world, students proudly shared elements of their heritage, encouraging others to learn, taste, and explore.

We were especially delighted to welcome students from Bishop Foley's Primary School, who visited the fair and immersed themselves in the experience, sampling treats, listening to different languages, and engaging in cultural activities. The event highlighted the diversity within our school and the importance of inclusion, understanding, and global awareness.

A huge well done to our language teachers and students for organising such an enjoyable and educational celebration. Events like this remind us that our differences enrich us and that every culture adds something special to our school.





Anti-Bullying Workshop

As part of National Anti-Bullying Week, our Meitheal Leaders took on the important role of delivering workshops to our 1st Year students, promoting the message that our school is a safe, respectful and welcoming place for everyone. Through activities, discussions and scenario-based learning, the leaders explored what bullying looks like, how to respond, and most importantly, how to support others.

The workshops encouraged students to use their voices, stand up for kindness, and develop the confidence to seek help if needed. Our senior Meitheal Leaders were excellent role models, guiding conversations with empathy and ensuring each student felt heard and valued. Their leadership and dedication reflect the strong culture of care within our school community.

We are extremely proud of their efforts in helping to build a positive school environment where respect thrives and every student belongs.





EPAS Model - European Council Event

TY students Kian Scully and Alastair Kelly Garvey proudly represented our school at the EPAS Model European Council event in Dublin at the end of November. Serving as the Irish delegation, they engaged in dynamic round-table discussions, presented thoughtful proposals, and contributed amendments while debating key aspects of European policy. Their participation alongside students from over 25 schools nationwide showcased exceptional leadership, critical thinking, and teamwork.

Woodbrook College Bray

Woodbrook College – A School of Sanctuary

School of Sanctuary is a programme designed to promote a safe and inclusive learning environment, and to make our school a place of welcome and inclusion for all. It came to the attention of our Home Economics teacher, Ms. Cluskey, when she was asked, as part of the Parents' Association in another primary school, to be involved with the ceremony in which the school was championed a 'School of Sanctuary'. She loved the idea, and with the permission of our principal Mr. Hurley, put together a core team of teachers to incorporate School of Sanctuary into lessons. These included studying the work of refugee artist Petrit Halilaj in Art class, a statistics project on refugees in 6th year maths class, and a student debate on refugees.



Ms. Cluskey also set up 'Culture Club' which has grown from only two students to over twenty students! They have organised many events in the school, including a Science Poster competition, Bingo and many more.

Our school has a vast diversity of people, with 28 different nationalities represented through our students, and 30% of students speaking a language other than English at home. Ms. Cluskey worked with many of these students' parents to create the Savvy Suppers recipe book, with a collection of affordable multicultural meals.

Beyond that, we have three sensory rooms located in The Hub to assist with SFL, and Stand-Up Week had events to educate people about and include the LGBTQIA+ community in our school community.



Push & Culture club joined forces for a super fun Xmas resistant Students share their favourite songs in Polish / Swedish / Spanish / Ukrainian and of course as Gayle

#inclusion
#diversity

Schools of Sanctuary

DEFINITIONS

FACTS

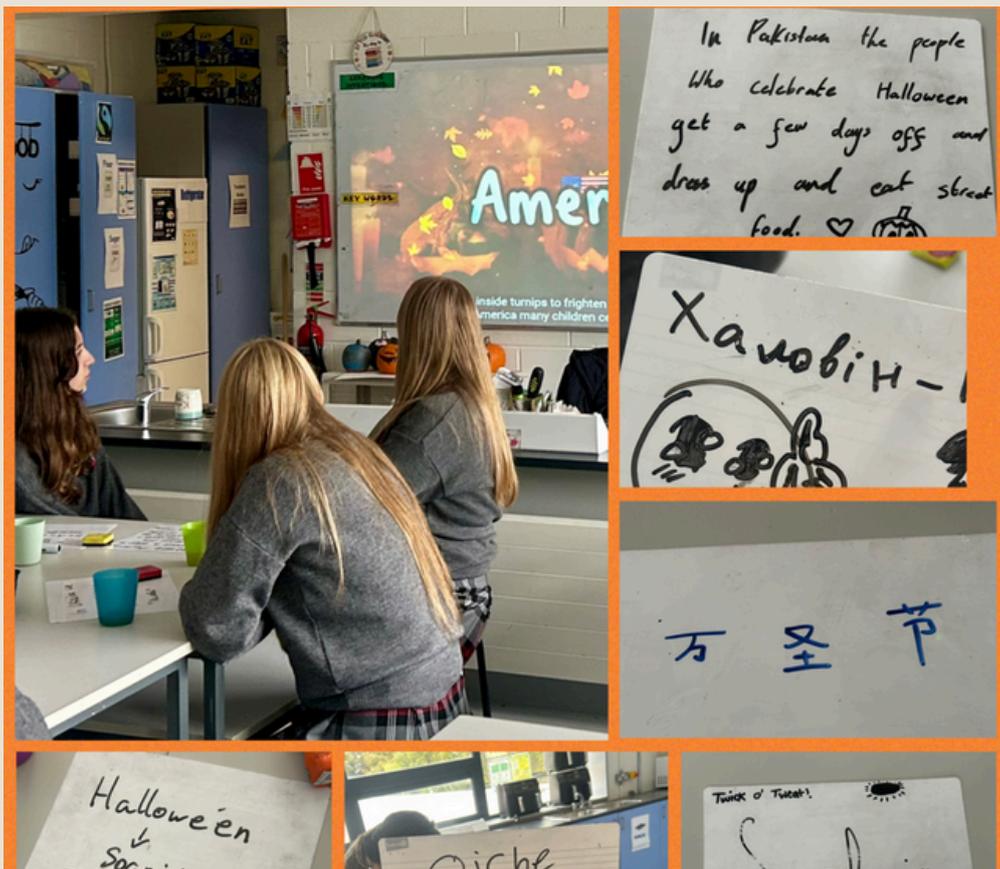
5

REPOSED

PLEASE FLEE FROM

JOIN OUR CULTURE CLUB TO CELEBRATE DIVERSITY IN OUR SCHOOL

CULTURE CLUB IS MEANT TO BE PART OF EVERYBODY'S CLUBS. WE CAN'T ALL BE PART OF EVERYBODY'S CLUBS. PLEASE DON'T BE THE ONLY ONE TO BE THE ONLY ONE TO BE THE ONLY ONE.



Ms. Cluskey and her team have done excellent work in the school and have really made Woodbrook College a place for all!

Rice College Westport

Mayo Hospice boosted by Rice College Shave or Dye fundraiser

The Westport school saw over 30 students participate in the event in order to raise vital funds



Students from Rice College in Westport took part in the 'Shave or Dye' fundraiser for the Mayo/Roscommon Hospice

On a momentous Friday, the 14th of November, Rice College Westport is hosting its much-anticipated event, Shave or Dye. TY students raised money for the Mayo Hospice by getting their hair shaved or dyed, around 3,650 euros were raised by students, staff, and families who wanted to show their support. Thirty students petitioned to have their hair shaved for this cause.

Students and teachers gathered around the assembly area to offer words of encouragement and appreciation. Rowan Mcloughlin was the first student to have his hair shaved in a moment of courage, a proud smile etched on his face throughout the entire time.

Rice College is a strong school community to have come together year after year to host this event for charity. Many people can admire the work and dedication that goes with hosting this charity, and setting it up by the fabulous staff of Rice College, but also the students dedication into volunteering and spreading awareness at the same time.

Shaved students and viewing teachers had this to say.

'I think it was a good experience and I look the bomb now.' Eoin O' Malley stated.

'It was a 'bitta craic.' Ben Hoben said briefly.

'Game is game.' Dylan O' Malley said chuckling softly, he had his eyebrows shaved along with his hair.

'They're all mental.' Mr Moran said shaking his head softly in astound and pride.

Many can applaud the actions of the Rice College students, but they can also appreciate the teachers who put their time and effort into the event, especially their TY coordinator, Ms Coulon. Just like every year, this event turned into another wonderful masterpiece with smiles all around at the end.

Long may it continue!

Ardcoil na Mara Tramore

Nuturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based Values

Some of our JP 2 students took part in a Prayer Service to mark the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Our RE classes have been learning about the significance of the Advent Season and the symbols associated with it especially the Advent Wreath. Earlier in November our whole school community joined with our local priest Fr Tadesuz in remembering all those who have passed away in our annual In November we Remember Prayer Service.



Ms Hickey's 2G Religion class got to learn about Hindu Rituals and practices from one of their peers, Anshi Mund. Anshi created a beautiful Rangoli display and Mehndi, which was done so beautifully. The whole class enjoyed their learning experiences about other cultures and religious practices.



Creating a Caring Community and Promoting Partnership

Members of our Student Council together with our Student Council Coordinator Ms Nolwenn Finucane were honoured to be invited to attend the 10th Anniversary of Helping Hands Waterford. The Student Council have been busy working with this worthy cause for the past two years and in the past couple of weeks have organised a very successful School Wide Food Drive to help those in need especially over the Christmas period. Pictured are student representatives Daniel Andrews, and Áine Groves with Ms. Finucane.

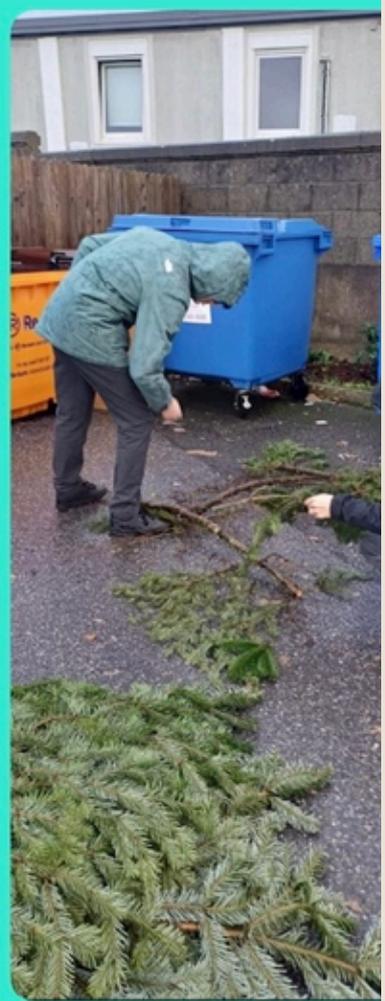


Our Meals on Wheels Group have been very busy working for the Community Centre's Hospice Morning. This group's commitment has been great to see. They also helped with a bag packing collection in a very busy Tesco with all proceeds going to Meals on Wheels Tramore.





Our TY Tidy Towns Community Outreach were busy recently plastering walls, cutting some branches for Christmas table arrangements and clearing out sheds. Tramore Tidy Towns were very impressed with the group and all their hard work.





Stand Up Week 2025

All our students took part in Stand Up Week 2025, where we stand up against homophobic bullying in all its forms. Ardscoil na Mara is a safe environment for all. Our Drama Club explored LGBTQ+ issues with students working in small groups to bring to life short scripts about LGBTQ+ teenagers. Their performances were so sensitive, heartfelt, and inclusive of all. To round off the week staff and students created a Rainbow Flag to show our solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community. It was a great round off to an excellent week. Thanks to the Stand up Committee for their hard work and dedication to making Ardscoil a safe and caring community for all.

Excelling in Teaching and Learning

Our Leaving Cert PE students had a great day in SETU recently where they took part in workshops on biomechanics, psychology, nutrition, resistance training and fitness testing. These are all so beneficial for their course. We also had a very busy Science Week 2025 activities included: Forensics Workshop- Investigating clues like real scientists, Helicopter Engineering challenge, creativity and problem solving in action. Other activities included Junior and Senior Science Quizzes teamwork and rapid fire STEM knowledge and Rocket making engineering meets excitement!



Coláiste Choilm Swords

Paidir an Lae Inniu (Today's Prayer)

The late Br. Tomás O'Connor C.F.C was Ardmáistir (Headmaster) of Coláiste Choilm from 1984 to 1988 and began a tradition where students read a daily prayer at 12noon.

After his retirement he remained part of the school community until his 80th birthday in 2009, keeping the tradition going all that time.

Each day the prayer begins with the same greeting, "Excuse me please; Paidir an Lae Inniu, today's prayer. Drawing on themes from the inauguration of the new president to the month of holy souls in November and more recently Advent, the Paidir an Lae Inniu is a tradition of which we are all very proud.





All of the readers from the Paidir an Law Inniu so far this year on the previous page.

The Paidir an Lae Inniu is read by Georgi from 2nd year

In the month of holy souls, we began daily prayer for this year, with the lighting of our November lantern.

We had a special prayer for deceased past pupils on the first Friday, with special mention of Wiktor Chruszczyk (class of 2023) whose second anniversary was commended that day.



On the final Friday in November, we remembered all deceased staff members of Coláiste Choilm.

Oscar from 2nd year who led us in prayer was joined by Ms. O'Keeffe, Ms. Daly, Mr. Boyle, Ms. Sheils and Ms. Doherty all of whom called the name of late colleagues from Coláiste Choilm as part of the prayer service.

In December, the flame of the November Lantern was replaced with the light of the Advent Wreath and the first candle of 'hope'.

Those students who read the prayer, volunteer to Mr. Foster. Currently, we have had volunteers from every class in 1st and 2nd year and will be starting 3rd year students in January 2026.



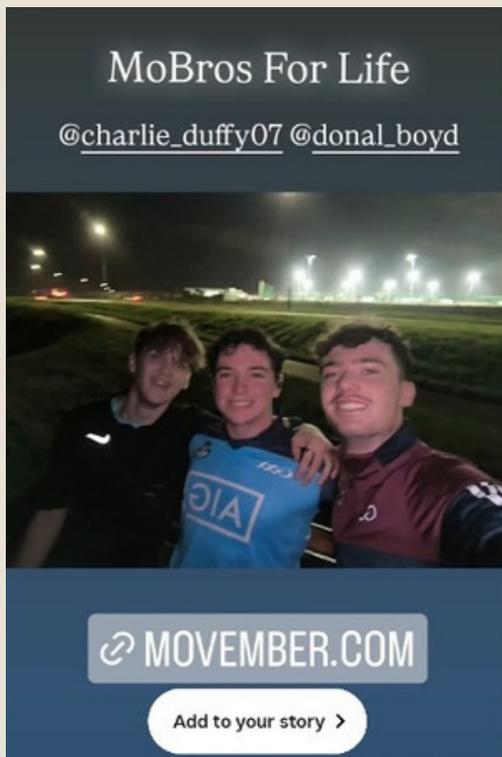
Continuing the work of Bl. Edmund in 2025 – Bros Bags in aid of St. Vincent de Paul

Meanwhile the 4th year students led a social media campaign asking parents and staff to donate a plastic bag of dried goods, non-perishable foods, canned foods and bathroom products in aid of the St. Vincent de Paul. The Bros Bags are then brought to St. Cronan's Church on Wednesday, where the boys deliver the liturgy of the Word. Afterwards they set to packing the hampers and today, packed over 109 hampers for the local community. We are reminded in this of the then Br. Rice opening a bakery to produce bread for his students in Mount Sion. Over 200 years have passed and our students are following in his footsteps to help others, making sure everyone has enough at this time of year.





Bros bags can be left in the large box outside the Principal's office for the 4th year students to collect each Wednesday and bring to St. Cronan's Parish.



November 2026 – the Bearded Bunch raise over €3,500 for Men's mental and physical health awareness

The class of 2025 joined the current prefect team in a social media campaign to raise funds for the Men's Mental Health charity, Movember. Raising awareness and opening doors to conversations with each other, the students ran 60km over the month, in memory of the 60 men who die by suicide globally every hour .





In school, staff joined in by donating or growing beards, students did too...we all couldn't wait until December to get shaving and back to normal.

While the itchy beards are gone, the legacy of the Bearded Bunch has gone from strength to strength to make a real difference to awareness of men's mental and physical health.

Past Pupils from the class of 2025 and our current prefect team of 6th year students were joined by staff at the conclusion of November 2025



Photography Competition

Well Done to Dawid Morawski (4th year) and Eliot Fisher (1st year) whose photographs were chosen in the recent SENSU nature photography competition from over 250 entries.

Their photographs will be published in the 2026 SENSU calendar.

DAA Elevate Awards

Coláiste Choilm received grant support from the Dublin Airport Authority Elevate 2025 programme in aid of green energy projects in the school. Darragh and Rayan from 1st year were joined by Mr. Blake and Mr. Boyle at the ceremony to collect the award.



St. Cronan's Parish

As part of the new Transition Year Programme, the TYs take a community engagement module each week in St. Cronan's Parish. They will be taking part in the Laudato Si project in 2026. Each week at the 10am mass on a Wednesday, they deliver the liturgy of the Word and a reflection. 4 of the students have taken the opportunity to become Ministers of the Eucharist. Their formation process will begin in the new year.

5th year Taize Service

Meanwhile the 5th year students are joining with students from Loreto College Swords in running the monthly Taize Service at 7:30pm on Thursday nights once a month. This involves bringing the prayer intentions of the school community to the service and also preparing the church and tidying up afterwards, followed by some reflection over a bite to eat in the Parish Centre.



CBS Roscommon

Cineáltas Showcase

CBS Roscommon shone bright at the Cineáltas Showcase in Croke Park. Senior members of our Student Council, Transition Year students Laurence O' Connor and Steve Shaji accompanied Ms. Reale and Ms. Grennan to Croke Park to highlight what CBS Roscommon is doing to promote kindness and to foster a sense of belonging in our school. Our fabulous centre piece took centre stage and received high praise from Minister Michael Moynihan as did the anti-bullying workshop that Ms. Reale facilitates each year. Laurence and Steve informed the panel about our new QR Code which allows students to be upstanders rather than bystanders when it comes to bullying as it allows you to bring any concerns to the attention of school management anonymously. We constantly strive to treat everyone with respect and kindness so we were delighted to showcase in Croke Park.

Below: Wellbeing Coordinator Rosie Reale and TY students Laurence O' Connor and Steve Shaji at the Cineáltas Showcase



JPII Awards

A massive congratulations to 5th year students Cormac Fleming, Michael Byrne and Conor Gilmore who were recipients of the John Paul II Gold Award in Sligo. The JPII Gold Award is presented to young people from 16-18 years of age for their participation and commitment to parish and community involvement. The programme encourages spiritual, physical, emotional and social development. Well done to the three students on their achievement and to their teacher Mr. Moran who helped to guide them through the process.

Below: Cormac Fleming, Paddy Joe Burke (guest speaker), Michael Byrne and Conor Gilmore



Science Week 2025

To celebrate Science Week 2025 from the 9th to the 16th of November our wonderful Science Department welcomed students from St. Comán's Wood Primary School and Gaelscoil de hÍde Ros Comáin to take part in a variety of hands-on creative science experiments set up in our Ciaran Byrne Hall. It was wonderful to see the joy, intrigue and enthusiasm as they engaged with the experiments. Thank you to our Transition Year students who showed excellent teaching and learning by facilitating the experiments and to Ms. Grennan and our Science Department for arranging and overseeing the whole experience.

Pictured on next page: Students from St. Comán's Wood Primary School partaking in Science Week experiments with our TY students





First-Year students after the bake sale with members of the SPHE Department and the Wellbeing Coordinator Ms. Reale

Stand Up Awareness Week 2025

To mark Stand Up Awareness Week 2025 our Wellbeing Coordinator, Ms. Reale, organised student workshops and a fabulous bake sale, the proceeds of which were donated to *BelongTo* and *Vita House*. The bake sale was run by our First-Year SPHE students and members of our Student Council. Thank you to the SPHE Department, Ms. Reale, and our fantastic students and parents for supporting Stand Up Awareness Week and helping to create a caring school community.



Bake sale fundraiser to mark Stand Up Awareness Week 2025



Ms. Quinn, Ms. Doyle and the First-Year students with their Christmas Shoeboxes

Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Well done to all our First-Year students who completed the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Every year Team Hope send thousands of shoebox gifts to children affected by poverty across the world. Our students were delighted to get involved and see that their actions could help to bring joy and happiness to others. Thank you to Ms. Doyle and Ms. Quinn for organising the appeal with the students demonstrating Christian-based values of giving and helping those in need.

ASD Enterprise Fundraiser

Students from our Edmund Rice ASD centre carried out an enterprise project selling hot chocolate at break time last Friday. They donated the money that was raised to As I Am, Ireland's Autism Charity. It was the most delicious hot chocolate and perfect for these colder winter days. Well done everyone!
Caption: John, Cillian, Austin and Jack from the ASD Centre preparing their hot chocolate enterprise fundraiser





John, Cillian, Austin and Jack from the ASD Centre preparing their hot chocolate enterprise fundraiser



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Portlaoise CBS

All-Ireland Champion - Dan Downey

A huge congratulations to Dan Downey, who was crowned All-Ireland Schools Combined Events Champion on Saturday, November 8th!

Dan competed in the pentathlon — a gruelling event made up of five disciplines: shot putt (5kg), 60m hurdles, 200m, long jump, and 800m.

It was an incredible day of performances, with Dan achieving: Shot putt – 13.26m (PB!) 60m hurdles – 8.36s 200m – 22.88s Long jump – 6.28m 800m – 2:00.32 Total: 3,784 points

After a personal best in the shot putt, Dan moved into second place — and then stormed ahead with brilliant runs in the hurdles and 200m to take the lead and hold it all the way through!

Dan now goes on to represent Ireland at the SIAB Schools International Pentathlon in Glasgow on December 6th, competing against athletes from England, Scotland and Wales.

An outstanding achievement and a proud moment for everyone here at St. Mary's CBS. Congrats again Dan.



A Momentous Honour for Harry McGree

Congratulations to 6th Year student, Harry McGree, who received an incredible invitation to attend the Inauguration of President Catherine Connolly.

Harry was invited in recognition of his work with the presidential campaign — particularly through his involvement with the Electoral Commission, promoting voter registration among young people.

Earlier in the year, Harry also took part in An Phobail Ghaelacht at Electric Picnic, where both he and President Connolly spoke in Irish. Since then, he has remained closely connected with the President's assistant, which opened doors for further opportunities — including canvassing during the election.



On Tuesday November 11th, Harry was at soccer training and realised he had a missed call when he was finished. He rang back, expecting a quick chat, only to discover that he had made the official guest list for the inauguration. He even had to arrange his pre-mocks around the invite — a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

On the night, Harry and his family joined just 200 invited guests for an evening of music, dinner and celebration. President Connolly personally spoke with guests throughout the night, making it an unforgettable occasion.

We are incredibly proud of Harry's achievements and the remarkable opportunities he continues to create for himself. A fantastic ambassador for our school and community. We have a feeling we will be seeing you up there again some day, Harry — and not just as a guest!



Midlands League Final Champions – U16 & U19 Basketball Teams

Huge congratulations to our U16 and U19 basketball teams on their outstanding success in winning the Midlands League Finals. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their talent, dedication and exceptional teamwork.

Despite battling illness in the week running up to the games, both teams displayed immense resilience, determination and competitive spirit. They showed true character in stepping onto the court under difficult circumstances and successfully defending their titles with pride and professionalism.

We are incredibly proud of every single player for their commitment and perseverance, and we extend our sincere thanks to the coaching staff for their constant guidance, encouragement and support throughout the season.

Champions once again — a thoroughly well-deserved achievement for all involved.



A Big Week for Darragh Keenan and Eoin Fitzpatrick

Darragh Keenan and Eoin Fitzpatrick travelled to Salou, Spain from Wednesday the 26th - Sunday 30th November as part of the Athlone Town U16s squad competing in the Surf Cup Salou 2025.

They took part in a series of group games on Thursday and Friday, including a major fixture against Stoke City, with knockout stages continuing across the weekend following their progression.

Darragh has been with Athlone Town for two and a half years, while Eoin joined the squad just three months ago. Although Eoin was injured at the time, he still travelled with the team and gained valuable experience from the trip.

Both lads represented St. Mary's CBS and their club with pride on the international stage. A fantastic experience and achievement for both players.

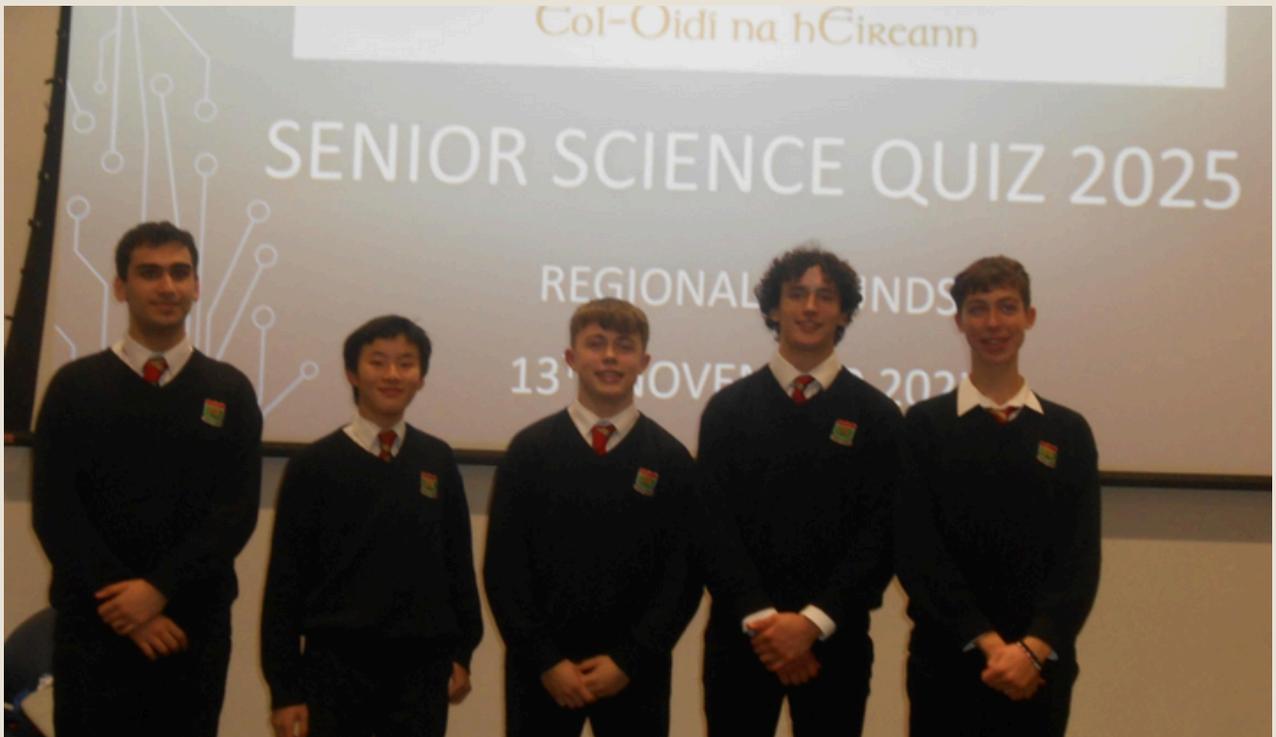


Oatlands College

Science Week in Oatlands College

Oatlands College had a very busy Science week. Two Oatlands teams entered the ISTA Senior Science Quiz and performed excellently. Ahmed, Joseph and Jonathon came joint 6th. Freeman, Seamus and Maytham came third in the Regional round and represented Oatlands College in the National Final, where they came 5th overall. 5th year student, Bohan, won a silver medal in the Irish Experimental Science Olympiad and is one of 6 students in the country to progress to the final round in the Chemistry competition in DCU in January. Midlands Zoo presented an excellent bug and reptile workshop to our first years and third years went to Dublin Zoo for a very educational and enjoyable evolution workshop and tour of the Zoo. Finally, two of our past pupils gave an excellent STEM presentation to our senior students on their Engineering and Science courses in UCD.







Oatlands College – Immersion Programme with the Teretta Foundation in Tanzania

This October, sixteen students from 4th and 5th Year travelled to the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania on an immersion program with the Teretta Foundation. Students spent eight months prior fundraising at school events, outside the Aviva Stadium and in local shopping centres. Funds raised contributed towards the construction of a third classroom at the Teretta Foundation, a charity who provide education and a safe environment for at risk children in Tanzania.

While we were there, we saw first hand where our donations were going. We distributed resources to the local community that Teretta students grew up in, these resources included cooking oil, soap and new clothes for the children who were living there. Our group also visited a maternity ward in a hospital located in Moshi town, we were given a tour of the hospital and had the opportunity to gift baby clothes and blankets to all of the new mothers. We also funded the production of a custom wheelchair for a child living in a disability centre.



The most rewarding part of the trip was easily spending time at the Teretta school. There are currently 53 students enrolled, some of whom live there. Next month, with the addition of a third classroom, they are expanding to 90 students. The first time we arrived at the school, the kids flooded towards us with excitement. We spent the afternoon playing football and basketball, spending time on the swings and even teaching them how to play hurling. Every child was incredibly kind hearted and grateful for everything they had, it truly was a highlight of the trip.

To allow us a break from some of the more emotional moments, we spent some days exploring Tanzania. We visited an incredible wildlife park for endangered species, spent a morning with a tribe, swam in waterfalls and hot springs and learned about traditional cooking and art. These were all incredible experiences but nothing compared to our trek up Kilimanjaro, the tallest free standing mountain in the world. We spent three days on the mountain with an incredible team, climbing to around 4,000 metres above sea level, for comparison Carrauntoohil, the tallest mountain in Ireland, is only 1,038m above sea level. Our stay on the mountain was an incredible adventure and a fantastic way to end our trip.

This experience gave us a new appreciation for how lucky we are to have such a comfortable life full of opportunity. Many of us hope to return to Tanzania in a few years to further support the Teretta Foundation. On behalf of all the students who took part in the trip we would like to say thank you. Thank you to our three incredible teachers Ms. Cosgrave, Mr. McConalogue and Ms. Rigney who helped us every step of the way. Thank you to Ms. Garrett and our board of management for supporting us on this project. Thank you to the Oatlands community, especially our parents, who gave us their overwhelming support in achieving this goal. Finally I would like to thank Lenore and Teddy, the founders of Teretta, these two wonderful women are making an enormous impact on the community of Kilimanjaro, we wish them the very best in their future projects.







Maggie Gough and Bebras success for Oatlands College

The Maggie Gough competition is an online competition which tests the problem solving skills of Junior and Senior Cycle students. The competition was run during Maths Week, and our 2nd, 3rd & 5th year students took part. We had three students who achieved top marks in the competition, Cian (5th Year), Dylan (TY) & Nikolas (2nd Year) which was a great result for the school - well done lads! All students, regardless of the year they are in, sat the same test, so this makes Nikolas' achievement all the more impressive given that he is only in 2nd year! Total Legend 😊

The Bebras 2025 computational thinking challenge also took place in the school at the end of November. A selection of students from all year groups took part in an online challenge. Nickolas from 2nd year was awarded a Gold Certificate with a maximum score of 180 out of 180 which is a phenomenal achievement! Rian in 2nd year and Lorcan in 3rd year did very well and both earned Bronze certificates. Well done to Nikolas, Rian & Lorcan and to all the students that took part.





Naas CBS

First Year mass 2025

Well done to all our First Year students who took part in the First Year Mass on Tuesday. This special celebration marked the beginning of their journey in Naas CBS, where we wished them every success in the years ahead. We are so proud of this wonderful group — their respect and participation during the Mass were exemplary. The occasion truly reflected the core values of Naas CBS, including inclusion, community, and care. A special thank you to Fr. Robert, our RE Department, our readers, and our choir for helping make the celebration so meaningful.



Senior Volleyball Team

Well done to the senior volleyball team who won their opening round games to progress to quarter finals. Thanks to Ms Corcoran for coaching and looking after the team.



Senior Soccer

Well done to the Senior Soccer team on reaching the Last 16 of the Leinster Cup. The lads progressed through three tough away ties against Presentation Bagenalstown, Clonkeen College and Arklow CBS.



Credit Union Art Competition

Congratulations to 5 of our second year art students who enjoyed recent success at the local level of the Credit Union Art Competition.

In the 14-17 years category Isaac Chieng was awarded first place. Rían Fay came second and Michael Clear came third. Lucas Mc Gibney also won a Merit in that category. Daniel Mac Dougald was awarded third place in his category.

Congratulations to all 2nd year students who worked hard on their entries and well done to the students who received prizes. Special mention to Isaac whose work goes on to the Regional level of the competition. Best of luck to him.



Senior Art Trip

On Tuesday 11th November 5th and 6th year art students enjoyed an art appreciation trip to Dublin. They visited the National Gallery and the National Museum, Kildare Street. Students were privileged to get a tour of an exhibition of the work of world renowned artist Pablo Picasso at the Gallery. The exhibition entitled 'Picasso: from the studio' consisted of a wide variety of work from the hugely prolific artist including paintings, prints, ceramic works and sculpture. Students enjoyed the experience of seeing the work of such a famous artist up close and learning more about him in the process.

At the National Museum students got to view many artefacts from Pre-Christian Irish times that they have studied and this will no doubt benefit them in their understanding of that chapter in Irish cultural history.



Science Week

Congratulations to everyone who participated in Science Week this week.

We had a fantastic turnout for the lunchtime activities where students designed 3D structures out of marshmallows and built cup towers using string. We also had hundreds of entries into our "Guess the Element" challenge over the four days.

Well done to all our winners who received a €5 voucher for the school canteen! Well done everyone, we hope you enjoyed the week.



ISTA Senior Science Quiz

Congratulations to our four brilliant Science teams for competing in the ISTA Senior Science Quiz on Thursday, 13th November 2025 in Maynooth University.

52 teams representing secondary schools from Kildare and Dublin competed on the night. Naas CBS were represented on the night with 4 teams.

A huge well done for representing our school with such confidence and passion. We are incredibly proud of the effort each team put into their preparation and performance.

Team C finished in 5th place. This secured them a spot in the All-Ireland final being held in Trinity College. The final took place on the 6th of December. There was fierce competition on the day with CBS The Green, Tralee taking the top spot.

We are incredibly proud of Shane, Odhrán and Derec for reaching the finals of the Senior Science Quiz competition. Although it was hard luck this time, their dedication, teamwork, and passion for science were outstanding. Well done on this remarkable achievement!



Second Year Volleyball

Well done to the first and second years who travelled to the National Sports Arena to compete in the All Ireland schools 4v4 blitz day. The lads who are nearly all beginners to the sport won 3 games and were narrowly beaten in the others finishing 4th out of 7 teams. Thanks to Ms Corcoran who coached the boys today and has done excellent work with the school senior team too.



Stand Up Week

As part of Stand Up Week, we were delighted to have Cian Kelly, a former Naas CBS student, join us on Friday, 7th November, to talk with our fifth years. Cian spoke about his time at Naas CBS, his work with adolescents in mental health, his studies in Gender and Sexuality, and his current pursuit of a career in medicine.

Cian is actively involved in boxing, where he champions fitness and mental health within the LGBTQ+ community, an inspiring initiative that blends sport and inclusion. He offered a wealth of insight into wellbeing, identity, and resilience to the students. We are hugely grateful to Cian for sharing his experiences and for contributing to the spirit of Stand Up Week at Naas CBS.



Senior Volleyball

Congratulations to the senior volleyball team who have qualified for the All Ireland Semi Final of the Senior B Championships. They had great contests with Patrician High-school and Cross and Passion Kilcullen last Friday to qualify for the semi final. Special thanks to coach Ms Corcoran



Bronze Gaisce Awards

Congratulations to many of our Fifth year students who were awarded their Bronze Gaisce Medals in a ceremony on Tuesday. The students completed their Bronze Gaisce Challenge while in Transition Year. The Gaisce Award programme has three progressive Award Levels – Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. For each award level, participants must undertake Challenge Area activities that fulfil Personal Skill, Community Involvement, Physical Recreation and Adventure Journey requirements. It is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland to all young people to dream big and fulfil their potential. Well done to all of our students who received their medals and we hope some will consider challenging themselves to achieve a Silver and many even a Gold Award in the future.



Astronomy Talk

Our first year students had a wonderful opportunity to hear all about space, astronomy and planetary astrophotography today. We were delighted to welcome Ciaran O'Callaghan to our school, from the Naas Amateur Astronomy Society (NAAS).

Ciaran spoke to us about the history of astrology, showed us some of the amazing images he has captured and even brought some telescopes in for us to see.

The lads were excellent throughout the talk, they were fully engaged and asked lots of very interesting questions, which Ciaran was more than happy to answer. We hope it was an enjoyable experience for them and that it helped to solidify their learning of Earth and Space.

Huge thanks to Mr. Cunningham for arranging the talk and to Ciaran for being so generous with his time.



Senior Cycle Music visits the National Concert Hall

This week our 5th and 6th year Music classes had the opportunity to travel to the National Concert Hall in Dublin for a wonderful morning of music.

The National Concert Hall is the home of classical music and performance in Ireland. The students attended 'Music in the Classroom' and heard Berlioz's 'Symphonie Fantastique' being performed which is on the Leaving Certificate exam. It was a great opportunity to see and hear instruments live and learn about the main elements of the Symphony.



1st Year Meitheal Disco 2025

We had a wonderful evening on Friday hosting the 1st Year Meitheal disco for 1st Year students from St Mary's College and Naas CBS.

A huge thank you to the wonderful Meitheal Leaders from both schools for organising the event and for their leadership and the care they showed to our younger students.

We were very happy also to welcome teachers from St Mary's College. A special thank you to Ms Harnett who is the Link teacher for the Meitheal Team. Thank you also to Ms O' Brien, Ms Herbert and Mr O'Neill who supervised the evening. We couldn't hold events like this without the support of our staff.



Christmas Carol Service 2025

Last week we celebrated our annual Christmas Carol Service — a meaningful opportunity to pause and reflect on our ERST ethos, especially our commitment to inclusion, compassion, and community. Events like this remind us of the values that guide everything we do and the environment we strive to create for every student.

A huge well-done to our choir, readers, and our Music and RE teachers for bringing this ethos to life through their work.

And a special thank you to our photographers, Lukasz Deegan and Stephen Raleigh for capturing the spirit of the day so beautifully.



Rice College Ennis



Abstinence pledge

On Wednesday 9th December, our school chaplain Fr Tom Ryan and Principal Louis Mulqueen presented sixty-six 1st year students with their "Pledge Certificate". We congratulate them. These students along with the support and encouragement of their parents/guardians, teachers SNAs, and chaplain have chosen to make a commitment to abstain from alcohol until the age of 18 years and from vaping and illicit drugs for life. This is an admirable commitment considering the pressures of modern life. This decision will have a positive influence on their futures. We are very proud of them all and wish them well as they navigate the challenges and embrace the adventures ahead. We would like to acknowledge the continuing support of Fr Tom Ryan and Fr Joy. We are fortunate to have them both as a guiding light to our students and staff here in Rice College.





Clare Soroptimists Public Speaking Competition

Well done to 5th Year students Keeva Cullinan and Semi Adebolu, who represented Rice College recently in the Local Heats of the Clare Soroptimists Public Speaking Competition.

Special congratulations to Semi, who achieved 3rd place out of 15 speakers, and will now go on to the next stage of the competition in Castlebar next February as first runner up.

Christmas Market

This year's annual Christmas market was yet another roaring success. The broad range of skills and talent on display was a feast of delight for all. There were treats, crafts, games, live music and lots more. Parents, neighbouring schools and the whole school community came to visit and enjoy the festive atmosphere. Huge thank you to Mr. Conor Cleary, Ms. Clodagh Power and Ms. Hanrahan for making it all happen.







Cycle Against Suicide

The students of Rice College Ennis raised €500 for the Cycle against suicide charity in November. The students cycled just short of 1000km the equivalent of cycling from Ennis Co Clare, north along the wild Atlantic way to Doagh Beg in Co Donegal. Students and teachers were encouraged to accessorise their uniform with something orange on the day to help break the stigma around mental health issues within our school and the wider community. Everyone also received a wrist band encouraging people to reach out for help if they are struggling.





Christmas wishes from all at Rice College Ennis!

Transition Year student Aida Kairyte created this year's school Christmas Card allowing us to spread good wishes to all our school community both near and far. We use this artwork as a means to keep in touch with our school alumni and friends and as a way to say thank you for all that we receive as a school throughout the year. Have a happy and peaceful Christmas from all at Rice College Ennis.



Edmund Rice Secondary School Carrick on Suir



EPAS Cross-Border Peacebuilding Trip to Derry

1–3 December 2025

Students and teachers from European Parliament Ambassador Schools (EPAS) across Ireland and Northern Ireland recently took part in a three-day cross-border programme in Derry. The event centred on peacebuilding, democratic participation, and the legacy of Nobel Peace Prize laureate John Hume. It was organised by the European Parliament Liaison Offices in the UK and Ireland, in partnership with the John & Pat Hume Foundation and the Northern Ireland Youth Forum.

Day 1 – Welcomes, Workshops & First Connections

Participants arrived by train, coach, and public transport before checking in at the Holiday Inn Express and gathering at the historic Guildhall for registration and lunch. The programme opened with remarks from senior representatives of the European Parliament and the Hume Foundation, followed by an archival video of John Hume addressing the European Parliament on the EU's role in conflict resolution. Students then took part in a series of icebreakers and a lively "carousel" of activities, including:

- A guided tour of the Guildhall and Hume memorabilia
- Workshops on identity and shared values
- Speed-networking with peers
- A festive EU-themed matching challenge

Day 2 – Democracy, Dialogue & Youth Leadership

The second day began with the arrival of additional local students invited by the Hume Foundation. Stephen Clark, Director of European Parliament Liaison Offices, delivered an inspiring keynote on the importance of youth engagement in democracy.

A group photograph was followed by a major round-table discussion on EU–Northern Ireland relations with guest speakers:

- Kathleen Funchion MEP
- Mark Durkan, former Deputy First Minister
- John Cushnahan, former MEP

Students asked questions, shared views, and heard multiple perspectives on cooperation and peacebuilding.

In the afternoon, each school delivered a short presentation before receiving an EPAS recognition certificate. Evening workshops led by the Northern Ireland Youth Forum covered:

- Social media and disinformation
- Youth voices in peacebuilding
- A talk by former Mayor Cllr Lilian Seenoi-Barr

The day ended on a high note with a traditional Irish Cèilidh, complete with live folk music and dancing.



Day 3 – Walking Tour & Farewell

The final morning featured a guided walking tour of Derry/Londonderry, including visits to the city's famous murals, the Derry Girls murals, and the Derry Girls Museum. Closing remarks were shared before participants collected lunch packs and began the journey home.

A Powerful Cross-Border Experience

This three-day programme offered students a meaningful opportunity to learn about peacebuilding, the European Union, and the importance of constructive dialogue. Through meeting political leaders, youth advocates, and peers from across the island, students gained a deeper appreciation of cooperation and their own role in shaping a peaceful future.

The values championed by John Hume—respect, partnership, and hope were evident throughout, making this an inspiring and memorable experience for all involved.



Advent

Preparing for Christmas: Creating Our Advent Wreath

As part of our preparations for the Christmas season, students have been busy designing and assembling a beautiful Advent wreath for our school community. Working together, they selected fresh greenery, arranged the traditional four candles, and learned about the symbolism of hope, peace, joy, and love that each candle represents. To showcase their work, students also constructed a custom wooden stand to display

the wreath safely and proudly in our classroom. The stand was measured, sanded, and decorated by the group, giving them a hands-on opportunity to combine creativity with practical skills.

The finished wreath and stand now form the centrepiece of our Advent reflections, helping students mark the journey towards Christmas in a meaningful and engaging way.



Art and Green Club

Students have been following the seasons in their art work producing fabulous collages using natural materials collected in the school grounds full of autumnal colours. We took inspiration from science week to produce chromatography inspired snowflakes. We are now creating Christmas decorations using recycled materials.

TY

TYPs are taking part in two Global campaigns collecting data from school grounds that will be shared and used by NASA and other research institutions. One involves monitoring air pollution at different sites. The second project looks at the effect of trees on temperature. Students are currently measuring the heights and circumferences of trees to estimate how much carbon is stored.

Science

Getting creative in science with our modelling of cell division and DNA structure in a very tasty way. Biology students had a closer look at the amazing squid and all its adaptations as part of science week.

Coláiste Éamann Rís Cork

A day to Share!

On the 28th November our school proudly celebrated Yellow Day in support of SHARE, an organisation whose incredible work supports older people in our community through housing, friendship, and care.

A huge thank you to our student representatives, Xiao and Siobhán, for leading the way and representing our school with such kindness and enthusiasm.



Meitheal Team organises Ice Skating

On the 5th of December Meitheal Team organised a trip for our TY students to attend an Ice Skating Trip to the Marina Markets in Cork City. After a fun filled skate on the ice our students grabbed some hot chocolate before perusing the market stalls. The TYs sat together for a bite to eat and they were spoilt for choice with the array of wonderful sweet and savoury food stalls to choose from. There's nothing like good fun, great food and even better friendships to begin the festive season.



Cork Penny Dinners

Preparations for Penny Dinners got underway at 8:40 am on Monday 8th of December in Colaiste Eamann Ris, Cork. The Home Economics Department along with 15 students, a year head, 2 RE teachers and a partridge in a pear tree got together to prep, cook for and deliver Christmas dinners to Penny Dinners. This has become somewhat of an annual Christmas tradition in CER and it is one of the most uplifting experiences for everyone involved. The positive memories and conversations shared over hard work, peeling carrots and mashing potatoes is what the season of Christmas is all about. Community, the common good and helping others is where we find the true spirit of joy.





On Saturday, 6th December, students from Coláiste Éamann Rís volunteered their time to support our annual Christmas Food Appeal.

Kamile, Ola, Sofia, Yara, Ciarán, Chloe, Gabi, Nicola, Faye, Amelia, Ronan, Jayden, Tomás and Joel all represented our school with generosity and enthusiasm. Each of these students deserves bonus points for giving up their Saturday to help others, showing true Edmund Rice spirit through solidarity and community support.

Their efforts highlight the real meaning of Christmas: families supporting families, especially in times of need. Through their kindness, our students have helped bring comfort and hope to those in our community. Well done and thank you to everyone involved.





Music Department Christmas Performances

This month, our school choir and Traditional Irish Music Group joined forces to bring festive cheer to two local day care centres: Ballyphehane Day Care Centre and Turners Cross Social Services. Their performances were warmly received and added a special touch of Christmas spirit to both communities.

The students involved showed wonderful teamwork, dedication, and Christian values, giving up their time each week to practise and prepare. Their commitment truly reflects the heart of the season—sharing joy with others.

As we look ahead, the groups are now preparing for our School Advent Service, where they will perform a selection of beautiful carols later this week. We look forward to another uplifting celebration of music and community.





Student Council Trip to Leinster House

Our Student Council enjoyed a fantastic trip to Leinster House, where they had the opportunity to meet Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire TD, Leas-Cheann Comhairle John McGuinness TD, Minister of State Jerry Buttimer, Pádraig Rice TD, and Seamus McGrath TD. Students were given a guided tour of Leinster House, where they learned about the history and inner workings of the Oireachtas. They continued their day with a visit to the National Museum of Ireland – Natural History. It was a wonderful experience for all involved.



Dungarvan CBS

National Garda Youth Award Success for Dungarvan CBS

This year marks a historic moment for Waterford, as Transition Year students Matthew Hayes, Jake Kiely, Archie Mahony and Ben O'Leary were recognised as the county's first ever National Garda Youth Award winners. Accompanied by Principal, Agnes Guerin, Deputy Principal Brenda Kirwan and Dungarvan JLO Aidan Mccarthy the students received the Community Safety Award for their impactful Car Crash Simulation Project, which highlighted the dangers of drink driving among young people.

The Awards Ceremony took place at the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise today where students proudly accepted their award. This is a remarkable accomplishment for both Waterford and Dungarvan CBS, and we couldn't be prouder of the students' commitment, creativity and leadership





Sweet Success: Our Bake Sale Raises an Incredible €635 for Bernardos!

Ms Barry's 2nd Year RE class extend a massive thank you to our incredible school community for the overwhelming support and enthusiasm shown for Friday's (28th November) successful bake sale! Events like these simply wouldn't succeed without the dedication, generosity, and support of our wonderful staff and parents.

A Wonderful Total

The students were absolutely thrilled with the outcome, raising a whopping €635! This fantastic total will be put to use immediately for a wonderful cause. The students will be taking a special trip to Frank Murphy's to purchase a selection of toys. These toys will then be donated directly to the Bernardos' Christmas Toy Appeal, helping to ensure that children who are less fortunate have a gift to open this Christmas.

Kindness in Action

This initiative followed detailed discussions in our RE class, where students learned about and explored the importance of giving back to the community and helping those who are less fortunate. Christmas is the perfect time to put these values into action. Our students truly exemplified the spirit of kindness and generosity today. Their efforts will make a real difference this festive season! Thank you once again for your unwavering support.



Mount Sion Primary School

Excelling in Teaching and Learning

3rd Class visit SETU as part of Science Week 2025

Mr. Teehan's and Ms. Ryan's 3rd Classes had the exciting opportunity recently to visit SETU and see the brilliant 'Mark the Science Guy' as part of a busy week of activities for Science Week 2025. The boys learned all about how to look after our planet and the extreme events that can happen if we don't. They saw some amazing demonstrations and took part in some very cool experiments and they all hugely enjoyed the show, along with learning a huge amount throughout Science Week.







Fill a bus Making Caring Relationships

Mount Sion Primary School in conjunction with Waterford Foodbank took part in the "Fill a bus food drive". It was a huge success for the most vulnerable in our community. Mr. Frisby Home School Liaison officer led this initiative in our school with our Student Council.



Making caring relationships- looking after ourselves and others

We spread love to care homes in Waterford and Kerry

Some classes in our school took part in the Carepack initiative for schools. The aim of the program is to connect schools with residents in nursing and care homes for the Christmas season. As part of the program, the students in 1st class Ms. Wall and 1st class Ms. Butler, created cards to send to residents of a care facility in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. The older pupils in 5th class Ms. Power and Ms. Cheasty created cards and wrote messages inside telling the recipient a bit about themselves and wishing them a very happy Christmas. The 5th class pupils also designed Christmas decorations to be included with their cards, in the hope that their resident might add it to the tree in their care home. Recently as part of their Religious Studies, the children learned about Willie Bermingham who founded the charity ALONE. Through his work as a firefighter, he noticed a significant number of elderly people who were lonely and in need of support of some kind. He decided to be the change he wanted to see, and as a result founded the charity ALONE, which has gone on to help thousands of older people in our communities. Learning about the work of Willie Bermingham in Grow and Love, inspired the 5th class students to think about elderly individuals who may be feeling lonely and they wanted to participate in the Carepack kindness initiative. Taking part really encourages empathy and community spirit in the children. They all put a huge effort into making their cards and decorations. Ms. Cheasty's and Ms. Power's class sent their beautiful festive cards to Co. Kerry. We sincerely hope they bring joy to the lovely recipients.





Keeping the faith alive Christmas Carol Service

Every class came together to sing Christmas Carol songs to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Each class from our ASD classes to sixth class read a part of the Nativity story and coloured pictures to accompany their reading. The boys loved re-enacting the Nativity story in our live crib. Every Carol service is only complete when our friend Br. Peadar shares his Christmas message to the boys.



CBC Cork

Student of the Year 2024/'25

The Br Reynolds Student of the Year Award is presented each year to the pupil who best embodies the spirit and philosophy of Christians. The award does not depend on academic ability, sporting success or pre-eminence in any particular area. It is not presented to a high achiever, in the narrow sense of the term.



This year's recipient of the Br Reynolds Student of the Year Award is Oran KIELTY. Oran is a young man who took full advantage of everything CBC has to offer.

CBC Christmas Carol Concert at Cork Airport



CBC's music students from Second Year and Third Year brought the spirit of Christmas to Cork Airport on the second of December!

Led by the CBC music teachers Tricia Murphy and Eimear O'Callaghan, fifty CBC students participated in a delightful carol singing event, providing a warm and festive welcome to passengers arriving from destinations including London Heathrow, Manchester, Valencia, Lanzarote, and Amsterdam.

It was an incredibly enjoyable, uplifting and convivial experience for everyone involved! Beyond spreading holiday cheer, the students' efforts were a fantastic success for a great cause. They raised an impressive €250 which will directly support our Zambia Immersion Project 2026. This project will see our Fifth Year students and three teachers travel to Mazabuka in Zambia next June to participate in vital community work under the auspices of the SERVE (Redemptorist) volunteers.

A massive well done to all the students and teachers involved!

Annual Christmas Food Appeal

CBC organized its Annual Christmas Food Appeal and Tree of Intentions in November. Families were invited to donate twenty euro in return for a light placed on the tree in the school atrium. They were also offered a card and invited to write the names of loved ones who had died and who they wished to offer a prayer for this Christmas. These cards were also placed on the tree.

Families were also invited to donate non-perishable food items, which were placed at the base of the tree. These will be given to the Cork St. Vincent de Paul.

The Tree of Intentions was officially lit in the College on Monday, 8th December at 7 pm after a Christmas Reflection. Students, parents and teachers were entertained by the school choir and orchestra performing beautiful seasonal music and hymns. The CBC Christmas Crib, built by the Fourth Year Misneach Leadership Team, was also unveiled on the evening. This was followed by cups of tea and mince pies for all!

The Tree of Intentions will be illuminated throughout the Christmas season.

All funds raised will be given to Cork charities such as Cork Simon, Cork S.H.A.R.E., and The St. Vincent de Paul.



Coláiste Éanna

Prayer for Peace

In October B1 attended a special prayer service in Ballyroan Parish to pray for peace in the Middle East and Ukraine. The service was a reflective and meaningful occasion, giving students the opportunity to come together in solidarity with those affected by conflict around the world.

During the service, each student tied a ribbon around the tree outside the church, symbolising their own personal prayer for peace. The colourful ribbons now stand as a visible reminder of the students' hopes for a more peaceful world.

We would like to sincerely thank Fr. Michael for facilitating this beautiful service and for welcoming our students so warmly to the parish. It was a moving experience that encouraged everyone to reflect on the power of prayer, compassion, and community. Mr Caymon Flynn, Chaplain.



Transition Year Beckett Food Appeal for SVP

Over the last few weeks TY Beckett, as part of their religion class with Ms Fitzgerald, collected food for the Saint Vincent de Paul food bank.

On Tuesday 9th December, members of SVP visited the class to meet with students, and to collect the donated items for the food bank.

TY Beckett students thank all who donated.



Coláiste Éanna – U19 Basketball World Champions

We congratulate our U19 Basketball Team on their success in winning the World Schools Basketball Games in Valencia, 7th – 9th November.

We are very proud of our team, captained by Conor Chambers and Adam Charles, representing Coláiste Éanna on the International stage.

It was a great team feat by our Champions, and we thank Ms Karen Hogan (Manager), Ms Maria Ní Cheallaigh (Assistant) and Mr Hillary Netsiyanna (Coach) for all their work in supporting and coaching our team. We also congratulate Adam Charles and Adam McCarthy on receiving MVP awards, and to Adam Charles on being awarded the overall MVP for the tournament.



Report from Finian Moran & Augustine Farrell:

The action got underway on Friday as all schools from around the world gathered in the L'Alqueria del Basket, Valencia for the pre-event media duties, training sessions, tours of the facilities ahead of the opening ceremony in the evening.

Conor Chambers our co-captain flew the Irish flag during the opening ceremony while Adam Charles (co-captain) was getting prepared to play in the All- Star matches representing team Europe.

This event would pit Team Europe against Team rest of the world. Team Europe emerged victorious and Adam Charles received MVP for this game.

The real action tipped off on Saturday when all teams took part in the WSG basketball group stages. Coláiste Éanna played five games, one of which was played on the renowned show court. The lads were victorious in all games on the Saturday to give them a huge boost heading into the final day.





Group stage games continued into the Sunday as the League standings began to take shape, before the teams split off into the relevant knockout competitions for a chance to lift some silverware.

The team went on to see off more stiff competition like ICS Imann Jordan in the semi-final and followed this momentum through to the final to win in what was an exciting game by 10 points on the main show court. Adam Charles and Adam Mc Carthy both won MVP with outstanding performances during these games.

The team collected the World Schools U19 Boys trophy and medals after the final, and Adam Charles received overall tournament MVP. Coláiste Éanna certainly wrote their names into the WSG basketball history books for their performances over the weekend.

Team List : Adam Charles, Conor Chambers, Emmet Callan, Chisom Chime, Augustine Farrell, Harry Lynch, Adam McCarthy, Finian Moran, Hugo Mulligan, Aodhán O'Neill, Karl Walsh, Patrick Walsh.

Manager: Ms Karen Hogan, Assistant: Ms Maria Ní Cheallaigh, Coach: Mr Hillary Netsiyanna.

India Immersion Project 2026

In February 2026, twelve students from Coláiste Éanna, accompanied by four teachers, will travel to Calcutta on the school's India Immersion Project. This is the first programme since the Covid-19 pandemic; previously our groups travelled to Calcutta on a biennial basis.

As part of the programme, students travel to one of the poorest regions in India to help those who live in extreme poverty. While in India, our group will volunteer at schools, witnessing the challenges faced by children less fortunate, working and supporting them. On their return, our students will share their experiences with their peers and local communities, in the hope of raising awareness of the struggles of others, challenging our priorities, and inspiring themselves and others to live lives based on Christian values.

In 2010, past pupils of Coláiste Éanna, who participated in the initial Immersion Projects, subsequently founded Calcutta Connect, a non-governmental charity organisation. It works towards alleviating poverty by supporting the education of children and young people from some of the poorest communities in Calcutta and surrounding areas. Our 2026 Immersion Project team will again be working closely with Calcutta Connect.



Students: David Kearney, Alex Dunne Martin, Oran Loughheed, Mohamed Monged, Dan John Thomas, Conor Gannon, Finian Moran, Adam Doolin, Conor Delaney, Aaron Magee, Max McCarthy, Ben Daly.

Staff: Mr Colm Dalton, Mr Emmet Blanchfield, Ms Maria Ní Cheallaigh, Ms Aileen O'Reilly.

Our students are currently fundraising for their India Immersion Project. They have been visiting local schools, parishes and businesses. We greatly appreciate the prayers for their project's success and all the financial support being received to date.



Transition Year Students welcome Past Pupils

Over the past number of weeks, Transition Year Students and their Coordinator, Mr Caymon Flynn welcomed past pupils back to their Alma Mater.

Recent guest speakers have included Ciarán Ahern (T.D.), Alan Irwin (Vice-President Product & Customer Solutions International, Global Payments), and Joey McCann (Barrister, Four Courts).

It is always great to hear what career paths our past students have taken and helps current students to become more informed of their decisions.



Ethos Initiative - Inclusivity

First years have been making rosary beads in religion class with Ms Fitzgerald.
Report from Shay Jenkinson (First Year Student):

Over the past few weeks, we have been working on rosary beads in religion class. Rosary beads are a string with beads on it and there are 59 beads in the whole string.

Rosary beads are used to help people with praying. We all had a choice of which beads we wanted to make, for example Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Islamic and mindful beads if you weren't religious. Students chose the 59 beads to make the rosary, unless they were doing the mindful beads, then they chose however many beads they wanted. We really enjoyed making the rosary beads because it was a really relaxing and peaceful activity.



Coláiste Éanna's Inaugural Culture Day Report from Hussain Abbar (Student Council):

On Thursday, November 20th, the Student Council, along with Ms Aoife O'Reilly and Mr Craig Delaney, hosted our first ever Culture Day. We held this event to showcase the hugely diverse student body we have, and how grateful we are to have it. The Student Council would like to thank the Woodwork Department and Transition Year Students for creating wooden stalls for our First Years on which to showcase their cultures. We would also like to thank Dave, our caretaker, for his hard work and support in ensuring the place looked festive on the day of the event. On behalf of the Student Council I can certainly say we had an amazing time working together as a team to achieve this brilliant outcome.





When asked about the success of Culture Day, here's what our assisting teachers said:
Ms O'Reilly: "The culture day was an incredible experience for us as a school to showcase and learn about the cultures and traditions of our students. The Student Council put huge time and effort into planning the day and coordinating the event.

The day's success is a credit to all their hard work, and we are excited to continue this tradition, including it as an annual event in our school calendar."

Mr Delaney: "It was a pleasure to work with our students, organising Coláiste Eanna's Inaugural Culture Day. As an event, it was an amazing success and it was great to see the first year students displaying their unique culture."

Finally, we would like to thank Jack Farrelly, Chairperson of the Student Council, for his hard work, and of course we would like to thank everyone that attended for the kind words of appreciation they shared with us, and for their support to make Culture Day an annual event, here at Coláiste Éanna.

Coláiste Rís Dundalk

First Year Mass

Our first-year students celebrated their 1st Year Mass on Monday November 10th to mark the start of their time here as part of the Coláiste Rís community. It was a wonderful occasion for the students who were a credit to the school on the day.



Senior Rugby Jersey Presentation

Our senior rugby squad were presented with a new set of jerseys for the forthcoming season and beyond. Everyone at the school thanks Playr-Fit for their creation on a jersey that reflects the true colours of Coláiste Rís. Many thanks to Dundalk Credit Union for their support in sponsoring our jerseys.





Dundalk Rotary Club Leadership Competition

We would like to thank Mia Powell and all the Rotary club participants for their involvement in this year's competition.

Mia represented our school at the Semi Finals this week and we are so proud of her positive attitude, confidence and values she brought to the competition.



Badminton Competition & TY Team Building Day

Congratulations to all our U14, U16 & U18 boys badminton players who welcomed De La Salle to our sports hall for a number of games.

Transition Years took part in a Team Building Day.





First Year Breakfast Friendship Morning

1st Year Friendship Breakfast Morning

Our First Years enjoyed a friendship breakfast morning with the support from their TY mentors. Students enjoyed; fruit, juice, cereal bars and pastries. Later they played a game to get to know other students in their year.

Gaeilge 24 – A Great Success for Coláiste Rís- Is leatsa an teanga, labhair í!

This year, a group of our Transition Year students, along with several 6th Year students, proudly took part in Gaeilge 24, an event that encourages young people to speak Irish for a full day. It proved to be an excellent and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

One of the highlights of the day was a live nationwide quiz, which saw our students competing against 2,000 others from schools across Ireland. Although our team didn't secure first place, they achieved an outstanding result — placing 75th out of 20,000 students overall. This is a fantastic accomplishment and a testament to their teamwork, knowledge, and dedication.

The students also took part in a live Bingo game with schools from all 32 counties. They found this to be great fun and very interactive, creating a lively atmosphere as they connected with students from every corner of the country.

In addition to the competitions, the group enjoyed yoga and meditation sessions — all through the medium of Irish — which added a calm and enjoyable balance to the day's activities. A few prizes were even won along the way, adding to the excitement.

We are incredibly proud of all the students who participated and of their sponsors for supporting them. Gaeilge 24 was a wonderful success, and we look forward to taking part again next year!



Christmas Jumper Day Wednesday 17th

Wellbeing Committee are raising funds to have a Buddy Bench in our School. This bench can be used by our students to have a chat!




Please wear:

- Christmas Jumpers
- Red/ White / Green T- Shirt
- Christmas T-Shirts
- Christmas Hats
- Christmas Socks
- Christmas Ties
- Christmas Hairbands
- Christmas Scarves etc.

On the day please bring in a 2 euro donation for our school Buddy Bench Project!



Christmas Clothes Day 17th December

The Wellbeing Student Committee are hoping to raise money this year to have Buddy Bench in our school. To support this idea the committee are asking all students and staff to wear Christmas Clothes on 17th December and donate 2 euro to this fantastic idea for our school. There will be spot prizes for best dressed also! Please get involved and support this project. If you don't have Christmas clothes, a red/ green/ white top can be festive too!

TY Trade Fair

Congratulations to all of our Transition Year students on a very successful Trade Fair today. Many thanks to the students and staff of Coláiste Rís who supported us so generously throughout the day. We were delighted to welcome the pupils of CBS Primary school and the Transition Year students of St. Vincent's Secondary School, St. Louis' Secondary School and St. Mary's College, Dundalk.





E2T

Our 6th year LCA students recently took part in an activity day at Todd's Leap Adventure Centre in Co. Tyrone as part of the Empower to Transform programme. Empower 2 Transform is an exciting Good Relations programme delivered across Northern Ireland and the border counties, by some of our region's leading Youth providers. Funded by PEACEPLUS through the Special EU Programmes Body, they endeavour to empower young people to take transformative steps in developing their confidence, skills and potential, form positive relationships with others of different backgrounds, and positively contribute to building a cohesive society.



Summit Sisters

Coláiste Rís is delighted to work with Louth Sports Partnership this year in order to offer opportunities to girls in Transition Year to take part in sporting activities. Sixteen TY girls participated in the 'Summit Sisters' teenage hiking programme, which is run in conjunction with Mountaineering Ireland. They explored the Cooley mountains, guided by their qualified mountain leader Margaret.

The theme is adventure, the location are the hills but the goal is not all about going up peaks. It is an immersive programme which involves bringing teenage girls' individuality and creativity to the hills.

It provides adventure where they can explore the great outdoors but also explore their own interest while being themselves. It creates a sense of belonging and an opportunity to have a unique experience together that bonds them, where they can share their stories but also work as a team.



Colaiste Ris Choir Annual Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas concert is always a great success and enjoyed by all who attend.



TY Trax

Friday 24th October marked the final session of 'TY Trax' for all of our Transition Year classes. TY Trax gives young people an introduction to using music technology to create their own music. No previous experience of playing an instrument was necessary. Many thanks to Paul Campbell from Music Generation for leading these workshops.



Pick 'n' Pace

Our cohort of Transition Year students recently undertook an environmental action project. They picked up litter in St. Helena's park and the surrounding areas in order to improve their local environment. This was their first civic and community engagement project of the year. It was organised in conjunction with Dundalk Tidy Towns and Dundalk Chamber of Commerce under the 'Pick and Pace' initiative which was generously sponsored by local businesses.



Midleton CBS



Br. Placid and Br. Joel with the Team who travelled to Kolkata in February, 2025

There was great excitement in Midleton CBS recently as the India Immersion Team welcomed Br. Joel and Br. Placid to the school. The team first met both Brothers during their visit to Kolkata earlier this year, so it was a real pleasure to greet them on our home turf, and it was especially meaningful as this was the first time someone connected with St. George's School has visited our school.

Our connection with St. George's goes back a long way. The India Immersion Programme, which began in 2005, sends six students and two teachers to Kolkata every second year. During their stay, they spend time in the classrooms of St. George's School for Street Children, helping the children with their schoolwork and getting to know their stories. For many of our students, the experience is life-changing and a highlight of their time in CBS.

The programme isn't just about visiting, though. Each year, our students also raise funds for St. George's through a Christmas bag-packing fundraiser in the local SuperValu. The money goes directly towards supporting the school and the children who depend on it. When the team visited St. George's last February, Br. Joel was serving as Head Master. He has since taken on an exciting new challenge: establishing a new school in an area north of Kolkata, an initiative that reflects the Edmund Rice tradition of providing education where it is most needed. Br. Placid, meanwhile, is currently based at the international community in the Edmund Rice Heritage Centre in Waterford.

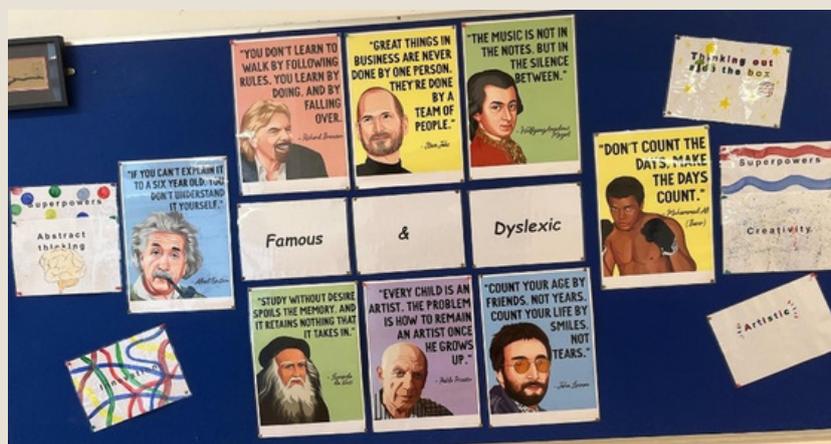
During their time at Midleton CBS, the Brothers met with students and staff, toured the school, and learned more about the longstanding partnership between our community and St. George's. As a gesture of appreciation, they were presented with school jerseys and locally produced gifts.



The visit was a really special moment, one that brought our long-standing link with Kolkata full circle. We're very grateful to Br. Joel and Br. Placid for making Midleton CBS part of their journey, and we hope it's the first of many such visits in the years ahead.

Dyslexia Awareness Week 2025

For the second year running, we celebrated Dyslexia Awareness Week here at Midleton CBS Secondary School. Our approach was multifaceted. We adopted a whole school approach to raise awareness among staff and students about both the challenges facing those living with dyslexia and the strengths dyslexic individuals often exhibit, including 'outside the box' thinking, creativity and resilience. Our poster campaign showcasing famous entrepreneurs, celebrities and sports people, past and present, served as an excellent visual demonstration of how people with dyslexia have, can and do experience enormous success.



Throughout the week, our tutors shared information with our student body, myth busting misconceptions about dyslexia, whilst our SPHE teachers showed RTE's 'Lost for Words' documentary to further raise awareness about dyslexia and as a springboard for discussion.

We organised and held a student-led Dyslexia workshop where our 5th years shared strategies, resources, digital platforms, apps and assistive technology supports including reading pens and speech-to-text and text-to-speech software with our 1st years. The student-led workshop was a huge success and it was great to see our older students lead the way for our first years in a relaxed and friendly environment.

We ran a lunchtime teach-meet where colleagues shared inclusive, universal design for learning strategies and resources to support pupils with dyslexia in the mainstream classroom and dyslexic colleagues also shared their own lived experiences of navigating the education system and the world of work.



The reaction and impact of our Dyslexia Awareness week at Midleton CBS was tremendous, equipping our dyslexic students with skills and strategies to mitigate the challenges they face accessing the curriculum, as well as instilling a greater sense of confidence in their abilities and potential.

Whilst as a staff, Dyslexia Awareness Week helps us to continue to develop our skills, understanding and to keep abreast of the most up-to-date strategies and resources to support our dyslexic students.

Student Council Organise School Darts Championship in aid of Cork Penny Dinners

The curtain has now come down on the Midleton CBS Darts Championship, a hugely successful student-led event organised by our Student Council. With almost 120 students from 1st to 6th year taking part, the competition brought great energy and excitement to the school over the past number of weeks.



One of the standout features of the tournament was the daily atmosphere it created. The school foyer was packed each lunchtime, with students gathering to watch matches, cheer on their classmates, and enjoy the friendly rivalry that developed between year groups. What began as a simple idea quickly grew into a genuine whole-school event.



The championship also showcased student leadership at its best. From scheduling fixtures to managing scoring and promotion, the Student Council took full ownership of the competition, creating an inclusive activity that allowed students of all ages to get involved. Along the way, there were high scores, surprise results, and a memorable 100 checkout by 2nd year student Lorcan Evans, the highest of the tournament. We look forward to building on this momentum and supporting more student-driven initiatives throughout the year.

Drimmagh Castle CBS Secondary School

Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based Values

Ms Deegan and her 1A class made up care packages to give to nursing home residents this Christmas. Students wrote messages on homemade cards to accompany the gifts. We are very proud of all our Junior and Senior Cycle students who helped with the wrapping and delivery of care packages.



Staff took part in a fundraiser Cook for Gaza to raise funds for Concern's work in Gaza. It was lovely to cook, share and donate, thinking of those less fortunate than us.



Promoting partnerships

We are very proud to announce that we have launched a Parents Book Club led by our HSLO Sara Sattar. It is very important in Drimnagh Castle that we nurture a sense of community and partnership with our parents, while still having fun through the joy of reading.

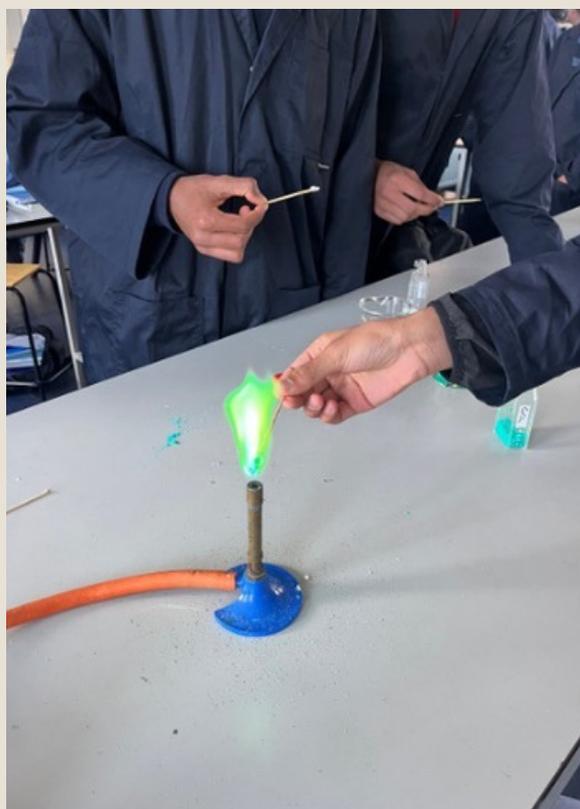
The PEDL (Programme to Enhance Digital Literacy) graduation at TU Dublin was a big event for four of our parents. Sara Sattar runs the programme every year and it has been going from strength to strength.



Excelling in Teaching and Learning

As always Maths week was a great success with Ms Carroll at the helm with her daily Maths quiz.

Science Week 2025 was a huge success in Drimnagh Castle, with students taking part in fun experiments and whole school activities like "What's Under the Microscope?", that had everyone guessing. We also ran a 1st and 2nd year poster competition, with the winners receiving a €25 JD Sports Voucher. A highlight of the week was a talk from Juan Miro, a retired European Space Agency engineer, who spoke to our senior students about space and career opportunities in science. The week really opened everyone's eyes to the importance of science in our everyday lives.



Mr Munnelly's Third Year History class braved the recent cold weather and visited Glasnevin cemetery. They enjoyed a guided tour that brought the stories and lives of Irish patriots to life. Patriots like Daniel O Connell, Charles Stewart Parnell, Kevin Barry, Roger Casement, Maud Gonne, Constance Markievicz, O Donovan Rossa, Eamon De Valera and Michael Collins.

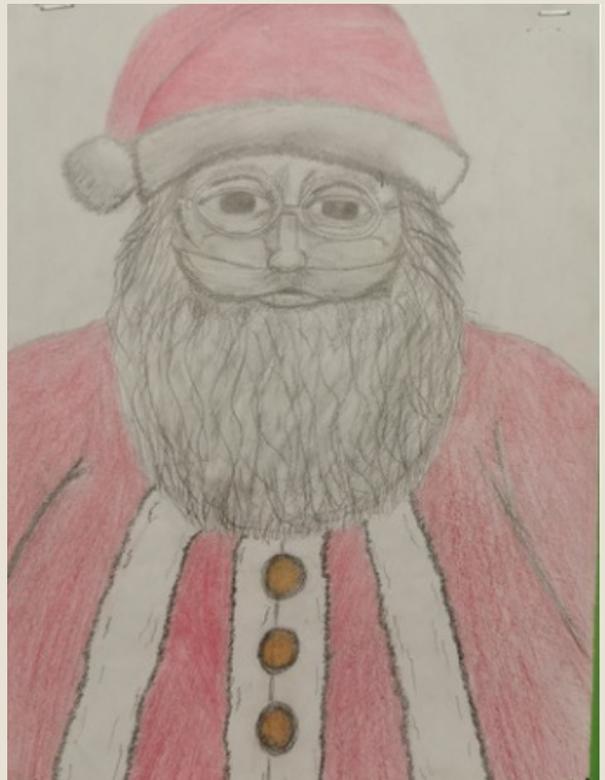


Creating a Caring School Community

Drimnagh Castle Stand Up Week took place from 3-7 November, 2025. Flags were displayed around the school building to highlight the importance of respect, diversity and allyship.

The week concluded with a special visit from Guest Speaker David Gough, who delivered a thought-provoking talk to our 5th year students. David's key message centred on the importance of belonging, fostering an inclusive environment and supporting every member of our school community.

Christmas activities are in full swing this December. The Art Department is busy with Christmas art, constructing the crib and painting Christmas murals. The music department is busy practicing carols for our end of year Fun Day. Meanwhile the first years have been in competition to see who has the best decorated classroom door. Mr Tierney and the Transition Years are busy getting ready for the TY Christmas fair. This year we will have our first end of year Christmas quiz. It's all go on the run up to the holiday season







Inspiring Transformational Leadership

We were very proud to be present at the Active School Flag official launch event with Helen Mc Entee at Farmleigh House this November. Well done to students Sean Gavigan, Alex Byrne and Jack Byrne for their initiative and leadership in pushing forward the ASF programme in our school. A proud day also for Mr Darcy and all the teachers involved in the Active Schools committee who have been leading this initiative for many years helping to make our school a more active and healthy place.

The U16 Basketball team participated in the East Leinster A final, with a narrow defeat to fellow ERST school Colaiste Eanna. The lads displayed a great attitude of teamwork and leadership throughout the season.



Edmund Rice College Carrigaline

Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based Values

November is often seen as a month of reflection and remembrance for all of the Holy Souls. We marked this in our school by coming together in our year groups to remember and pray for our loved ones who have gone before us. We thank Father James from our Parish Church in Carrigaline for being with us on this day and we also thank our student readers for their contribution to these services.

Our students also created a beautiful Tree of Remembrance in the month of November, displaying the names of loved ones of members of our school community.



Promoting Partnership

The Student Council visited the Men's Shed, Carrigaline this term, having fundraised for them last year. Following a tour of the Men's Shed, the council were presented with a specially commissioned, hand-made clock for Edmund Rice College.

We have also recently welcomed Wayne Tinsey and Billy Lynch from ERST who came to speak to our Student Council among others about the Edmund Rice ethos.





Creating a Caring School Environment

Christmas Decorations

A group of our students have been knitting Christmas tree decorations and selling them in our school and local community to raise money for the Munster Lost and Found animal rescue charity. They have knitted and decorated over one hundred decorations and they have been proving very popular so far!



Christmas Shoebox Appeal

In November, we held our annual Christmas Shoebox Appeal for Team Hope. Over fifty boxes were filled and have been sent off, many thanks to our staff and students for their contribution and involvement.



Carepack Christmas Cards

Our Wellbeing classes have been creating and sending Christmas cards as part of the Christmas Kindness Initiative in care homes organised by carepack.ie. 320 cards are currently in the making to be sent for residents in nursing homes and care homes across Cork City and county



Inspiring Transformational Leadership

Our Meitheal Team has been very busy this term. Every year, a selection of our Fifth Year students participate in the Meitheal Youth Leadership programme, a training programme in which senior students become mentors for incoming First Year students. The Meitheal Team are trained to help new students transition into secondary school by providing support, advice and friendship. This year, we have a team of ten dedicated Fifth Year students who have dedicated a great deal of time and effort to create bonding activities for our First Years. Some of these activities include organising an activity day to help First Years to get to know each other and a Halloween scavenger hunt.



Excelling in Teaching and Learning

As part of the TY programme at Edmund Rice College Carrigaline, students from the TY Politics and Social Justice classes organised a political discussion panel for their year group. This involved inviting local politicians to attend our school as part of the panel and discuss topics that are important to young people today. The topics discussed on the day included: reasons why politics is relevant to young people, issues concerning young people in our local area and the housing crisis, to name a few. Guests on the panel included: TD Séamus McGrath, Cllr Jack White, Cllr Úna McCarthy, Cllr Ben Dalton-O'Sullivan, and former senator, Tim Lombard. The event was a huge success and proved beneficial to all involved. We look forward to organising our trip to the Dáil in the new year to continue our engagement with this important facet of young people's lives.



New Ross CBS

Student Council

The Student Council is led by Mr Shane Curran and Ms Edel Whelan. They meet fortnightly apart from exam week.

Items discussed:

- Thursday 6th November: Noah, Mya, Zunique and Jack attended a regional ISSU meeting in Wexford County Council chambers. Eight other schools were in attendance. Jack and Noah put themselves forward for regional officer positions.
- Fundraising: trick or treat for temple street. Over €400 was collected. Moving forward will continue to use an online donation page
- Stand up week: student Council helped with Ms Butler's stand up week.
- Toaster: Hope to have fundraising ideas for a 2nd toaster as it's extremely popular.
- Loreto visit: students have raised issues with changing rooms and some members came with SPG group to visit Loreto Wexford and see sports hall. A number of members are working on video.
- Planning for Wellbeing week 2026 has begun. Students are being surveyed about activities they would like to see for this year.



Christmas Fundraiser for SVP

The halls were alive with festive spirit as everyone proudly wore their Christmas jumpers. But beyond the fun and laughter, the day carried a deeper purpose. By taking part, our school community helped raise vital funds for the New Ross SVP, whose work is especially important during the winter months. The organisation provides essential support such as food, clothing, fuel, and emergency assistance to those who need it most.

Through this fundraiser, we were able to show that even small acts—like wearing a Christmas jumper—can have a big impact. The generosity shown by students and staff reflects the values of kindness, empathy, and solidarity that we strive to uphold as a school.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to everyone who contributed, participated, or helped spread the festive spirit. Together, we not only brightened the corridors with Christmas joy but also helped brighten the season for families across New Ross.



College Awareness Week 2025

CBS New Ross recently celebrated College Awareness Week, an important annual event designed to help students explore future study paths, career opportunities, and the wide range of options available after secondary school. Students from 3rd to 6th year took part in a full programme of talks, workshops, and presentations delivered by universities, colleges, training bodies, and industry professionals.



One-to-One Devices for Fifth Years

CBS New Ross has taken a significant step toward preparing students for the future by introducing a one-to-one device program for all fifth-year students. This initiative reflects the school's commitment to innovation, digital learning and the development of key skills required for third level education and success in the modern world. It also prepares students for the upcoming changes in senior cycle, specifically in relation to the Additional Assessment Components (AACs), some of which begin in 5th year.



Celebrating 25 years of Meitheal in Wexford

Meitheal Wexford started in CBS New Ross with Fr Odhran Furlong and we are incredibly proud of how it has flourished in the last 25 years!

Congratulations to our 10 Meitheal leaders who were celebrated at the Meitheal Awards, hosted by Wexford Local Development in Riverside Park Hotel on 1 December. They joined over 300 Meitheal leaders from 22 secondary schools around Co Wexford. Well done to Noah, Jamie, Ionut, Luke, Hannchen, Cayley, Laura, Angel, Ellie-Jo and Hazel and their coordinator Ms Rowe.

Senator Cathal Byrne gave us insight into how he benefited from the Meitheal programme as a new first year. Our own Ellie-Jo and Hannchen stepped in to speak last minute and did an outstanding job.

A few weeks ago, we had a film crew from Cranng Media onsite here in CBS to capture the Meitheal Programme. We were shown a trailer of the film at the Awards and we can't wait to see the finished product.



Gaeltacht Scholarships

The Irish Department was delighted to receive the wonderful news that two Second Year students have been awarded scholarships to attend the Gaeltacht next summer.

Dylan will spend his time in Coláiste na Rinne, Port Láirge, while Tadhg will attend Coláiste Cholumba, An Cheathrú Rua. Both students are enthusiastic about the opportunity to further develop their Irish language skills and immerse themselves in the rich culture of the Gaeltacht.

Ms Roe Foley congratulated both students on their achievement and expressed her sincere thanks to their parents for putting them forward for this fantastic opportunity and for their continued support and collaboration.

Well done to Dylan and Tadhg – we wish them every success in the Gaeltacht next summer!



Waterpark College

Annual Christmas Carol Concert

Christmas is in full swing in the College and we've just enjoyed our Waterpark College Christmas Carol Concert in the beautiful church of St. Benildus. We send a big thank you to our college Trad band of students and teachers for the music and songs and the Waterpark College Choir under the baton of Ms. Siobhán Cahill. As always we had a serious crew of liturgy readers and Santy helpers. It is lovely to start a new Christmas tradition with our first-year students who we hope have made Waterpark their home. Since this time last year, all of our lives have changed significantly and to those in our school community who have lost a loved one, we offer our deepest sympathies. Facing into Christmas without someone you cared for deeply is difficult, but memories you have of them will bring light to your hearts.

Our message this year is about kindness. As the pace of our modern living gathers speed, please remember those who get left behind, and may be feeling quite alone this Christmas. An act of kindness might change everything for them. As we say in Waterpark, BÍ Cineálta !





SVP Toy Appeal

Thank you to all our staff and students for the very generous donations made to our local St. Vincent De Paul. Because of your help, we've collected 3,660 Euro. The First Year Foróige club are very grateful for the money donated to buy toys for Waterford's poorest children.

With requests for help set to exceed a quarter of a million this year, SVP Annual Christmas Appeal, urges public support for families under pressure. This year's theme, 'The Wonder of Christmas', reflects the rising calls from people 'wondering' how they will put food on the table, keep homes warm, and afford toys this December.

Thank you for doing your part by caring and sharing!

Concern Debaters

We want to thank our school debating team for their hard work in this year's Concern debates competition. Their voices have advocated for the those suffering from World hunger and the disastrous effects of climate Change. They have had a mixed bag of success in the 2025 league. In the first debate against St. Mary's College CSSp, we proposed that "In 2025, disinformation has become the greatest threat to peace". We had a majority win proposing that motion.

In our second debate against Ramsgrange Community, we suffered a loss when we opposed the motion "Boycotting is the most effective way to end Fast Fashion" Our final league fixture is against St. Marks, Tallaght on Tuesday 14th December. We will be opposing the motion that *Global Commitments to ending world hunger is a load of Hot Air*. Thanks to Niamh Barry, J. P. Laugico, Gracemarie Conway, Reuben Moran Davy, Holly O' Callaghan and Mark Slyusar for volunteering to research and speak on behalf of the school. We'd like to acknowledge the support of Ms. Mackey, Chloe Caulfield, Thomas Darcy Burke and Neeva Coughlan.

Gaza Appeal

The situation in Gaza is worse than ever, and they need our help. As the winter has hit in, over 14,000 young children are on the brink of death from starvation – a sharp and dangerous rise on figures reported in July.

In freezing tents and in overwhelmed, barely functioning hospitals, thousands of parents are watching the unthinkable unfold: their children growing weaker by the day, while the help they need to survive is just out of reach.

In response, Fifth Years will hold a bake sale for Gaza next Thursday, 18th December in the tuck shop. We're asking our whole community to give generously by bringing us your home baked or store-bought bakes.

Christmas Shoebox appeal

We want to thank all who put together Christmas shoe boxes for Charity Hope. Over 50 beautiful parcels are winging their way to African children in need. The campaign lasted over 6 weeks and had to be completed before the run up to Christmas as the parcels are sent by mail. It was lovely to see the efforts made by staff and students to spread some Christmas cheer. Thanks to student Natalie Kong, teachers Dr. Goff and Ms. O'Keeffe for making it happen!

Mental Health Week

Staff and students enjoyed a fantastic week full of events for students just before the first semester exams. Students had so many fun activities, one of which was mandala meditation colouring sheets. There was hot chocolate treats for the First Years and quizzes for third years. Meanwhile First Years had Internet Safety workshops. There were Consent workshops for seniors and a talk from Niall O Muirí from the Wexford Mental Health Association.

At the end of an action packed week run by Ms. McNeill, our Career Guidance Counsellor and the Caras, there was a fun inflatable in the P.E. Hall for 6th year challenges. Staff enjoyed a lunch where we brought in our own food to share a lovely treat for us all from us all. This is a lovely idea to get staff to share and pair.

In November we Remember

Well done to all our Second Years who participated in our Remembrance Service for our dearly departed loved ones. We were in St. John's with Fr. Tom, our School Chaplain. Second Years have explored poetry on the themes of loss and grief in their English classes.

During our Remembrance Service, Seamus Heaney's poem Mid Term Break was beautifully read by Lia Curca.

Stand Up Awareness Week

Thanks to Ms. Sweetman and her team for running Stand Up Awareness week in November. There were many fun events during the week, one of which is students making letters for LGBTQ+ together.

As Pope Leo has said- we need to cultivate an attitude of welcome.

To quote Pope Leo- "What I'm trying to say is what Pope Francis said very clearly when he would say, "todos, todos, todos. Everyone's invited, but I don't invite a person in because they are or are not of any specific identity. I invite a person in because they are a son or daughter of God."

Let us all make sure there is no room for any form of bullying in our school and our communities. Thanks to everyone for wearing their colours and standing up for others!

Hallowe'en Wellbeing Week

We had a great fun week of Hallowe'en doors, Fancy dress, Treasure Hunts and our usual poetry art and spooky story competitions. The highlight of the week had to be the Oasis Reunion in our G. P. room at small break. The brothers serenaded the whole school with their fab hits. Sixth Years turned out to be their biggest fans! Well done to all who participated and won prizes. Special word of thanks to Ms. Lanigan who hosted an amazing morning in the Art Room for make-up, fancy Dress and mug shots of all participants. The photography was top class.

We look forward to next year!





Happy Christmas to all.

Coláiste Eoin

Seachtain na dTeangacha

Bhí 'Seachtain na dTeangacha' againn sa scoil ón 17ú lá go dtí an 21ú lá de mhí na Samhna. Bhí na himeachtaí dírithe ar Bhliain a hAon agus Bhliain a Ceathair.

Tharraing an idirbhliain póstaer a rothlaigh thart an bhfocal 'Síocháin' scríofa acu i dteangacha gach cearn an domhan. Taispeánadh fíís dóibh leis an bhfocal 'Síocháin' sa teanga a roghnaigh siad agus bhí orthu iad a thaispeáint ar phóstaer.

Anuas air sin, bhí comórtas ann do dhaltaí ón gCéad Bhliain chun a fheiceáil cé a bheadh in ann an bratach idirnáisiúnta ab fhearr a tharraingt.

Chuaigh scoláirí na hIdirbhliana timpeall na ranganna sa Chéad Bhliain freisin. Labhair siad faoin Spáinnis, faoin bhFraincis, faoin bPortaingéilis, agus faoin Iodáilis. Thug siad amach paimpléid faoin teanga agus mhúin siad roinnt nathanna dóibh sa teanga áirithe sin. Chuaigh mé timpeall le póstaer a chruthaigh mé faoin Iodáilis agus faoin Iodáil í féin (toisc go bhfuil mé leath-Iodálach) agus labhair mé faoin teanga agus faoi bhia na tíre. Bhí sliocht agam faoi áit dhúchais m'athar freisin. Ar lá deireanach na seachtaine, an 21ú, bhí bricfeasta ag an Idirbhliain i Halla Choláiste Eoin de croissant seacláide agus sú úll.



Seachtain na Meabhairshláinte

Is seachtain thábhachtach í seachtain na meabhairshláinte. Tugann an tseachtain deis dúinn smaoineamh faoinár meabhairshláinte féin agus conas aire a thabhairt dá chéile. Rinneamar ceiliúradh ar an seachtain anseo i gColáiste Eoin.

D'eagraigh daltaí Bliain a Sé snámh ar maidin i Rinn Na Mara. Chuaigh siad síos roimh am scoile agus isteach san uisce leo. Bhain na daltaí Bliain a Sé ar fad taitneamh as agus léirigh sé spiorad na scoile. Is gníomh iontach é go ndearna daltaí Bliain a Sé é seo agus léiríonn sé spiorad na meithle do na daltaí níos óige sa scoil.

Tá sé tábhachtach go léiríonn daltaí níos sine do dhaltaí níos óige go bhfuil sé ceart go leor chun labhairt le daoine faoi do mhothúcháin agus má tá tú ag mothú go dona, tá duine éigin ann i gcónaí chun labhairt leis.

Socraíodh comórtas póstaer freisin do sheachtain na meabhairshláinte. Bhí a lán póstaer iontacha déanta ag daltaí ó Bhliain a hAon go Bliain a Sé. Léirigh na póstaer go bhfuil an-spéis ag daltaí Choláiste Eoin san ealaín agus go bhfuil daltaí dáiríre faoi mheabhairshláinte. Bhí seachtain den chéad scoth ag ár scoil go léir agus bhí spiorad láidir scoile le mothú.

Seachtain na Meabhairshláinte i gColáiste Eoin

Ón 29ú de mhí Mheán Fómhair go dtí an 5ú Deireadh Fómhair, bhí Seachtain na Meabhairshláinte againn i gColáiste Eoin. Bhí téama difriúil againn do gach lá den tseachtain ar nós Machnaimh ar an Máirt agus Cairdeas ar an gCéadaoin! Rinneamar ar fad iarracht a bheith níos cineálta lena chéile, agus linn féin, don tseachtain agus d'éirigh go hiontach linn atmaisféar níos dearfaí, ná mar is gnách, a chruthú.

Chuireamar dúshlán roimh na blianta sóisearacha póstaer le téama na meabhairshláinte a dhéanamh agus bhí duais ann don cheann is fearr. Bhí roinnt saothair ealaíne dochreidte ann agus ba dheacair an breithiúnas é buaiteoir a roghnú! Bhí tallann na ndaltaí le feiceáil go soiléir sa chomórtas seo.

Ar an gCéadaoin, bhí tráth na gceist ann do bhliain a hAon. Bhí spórt is spraoi acu ag freagairt ceisteanna le téamaí a d'áirigh Stair, Tíreolas, Spórt. Chuir siad aithne níos fearr ar a chéile don tráthnóna. Maidin, Déardaoin, thóg scoláirí Bhliain a Sé briseadh ón obair atá ar siúl acu i mbliain na hArdteiste chun dul ag snámh, agus ansin, bhí bricfeásta acu ar scoil ina dhiaidh sin. Bhí pain au chocolat, croissant agus sú úll nó sú oráiste ag gach duine agus ba mhaidin scothúil í.

Cuireadh dea-chríoch leis an tseachtain ar an Aoine le "Lá na nÉadaí Geala" ar chaitheamar éadaí geala ar scoil agus bhailíomar airgead ar son Pieta House, carthanacht a chabhraíonn le daoine le fadhbanna meabhairshláinte acu. Rinne gach duine a seacht ndícheall agus d'éirigh linn mar scoil os cionn €500 a bhailiú don chatharnacht iontach seo.

Bhí seachtain den scoth ar fad againn go léir ar scoil agus b'iontach an eispéireas é do na daltaí. Bhain chuile dhuine sult as na himeachtaí sin agus an lá gan éadaí scoile. Cuireadh i gcuimhne dúinn ar fad an tábhacht agus an phráinneacht a bhaineann leis an meabhairshláinte, ach go háirithe i gcás na bhfear a bhfuil claonadh acu gan labhairt amach. Is fíor an seanfhocal,
"Leigheas gach bróin is ea comhrá"
agus bhí éifeacht nach beag ag an tseachtain seo ar mhuintir na scoile ar fad!

An Gaeltacht san Idirbhliain

Ón 17ú go dtí an 19ú de Mhí Mheán Fómhair, chuamar ar thuras go Coláiste Chamuis, Gaelcholáiste i Ros a Mhíl, Contae na Gaillimhe. D'fhágamar an scoil thart ar a deich a chlog ach níor shroicheadar an Coláiste go dtí thart ar leath uair tar éis a ceathair.

Rinneamar go leor gníomhaíochtaí agus muid thiar. Chuamar ar shiúlóid timpeall an chalafoirt, d'fhoghlaimíomar amhráin sean-nós cosúil le 'Pota Mór Fataí' agus bhí tráth na gceist againn. Chuamar go páirc ziplíne d'arbh ainm 'Fiathailte' agus bhí am iontach againn. Rinneamar go leor gníomhaíochtaí eile.

D'fhanamar i dtithe, le idir 10-15 daltaí i ngach teach. Bhí an bia an-bhlasta agus fuaireamar dinnéir ollmhóra le burgair shicín agus spaigití bolognese ina measc.

D'imríomar cispheil, peil agus seachain an liathróid. Bhíomar i gcónaí gníomhach agus muid thiar i gConamara.

D'fhágamar an Coláiste don uair dheireanach go luath ar an Aoine, agus bhíomar ar ais sa bhaile thart ar leath uair tar éis a dó. Bhí am iontach againn sa Ghaeltacht agus bhaineamar an-taitneamh as an turas.

Ceol

I mbliana táimid tar éis neart eachtraí a reáchtáil ar son an cheoil. Ag cur san áireamh ceolchoirmeacha iontacha agus an ceol á sheinm ar feadh ceithre huaire gan stad ag Aonach na Nollag, is léir go bhfuil cultúr breá ceoil le feiceáil agus le cloisteáil sa scoil - agus níl stop go fóill leis an bhfás.

Ba í an éacht ba mhó a bhí curtha i gcríoch againn go dtí seo ná Banna Mór na Sóisear. Gach Máirt, i rith am lóin na sinsear, buailimid le ceoltóirí ó bhliain a haon agus agus a dó agus seinnimid le chéile, ag eagrú píosaí cheoil agus ag roinnt smaointe le chéile i dtaca leis an gceol.

Tá gach saghas stíle agus gach cineál uirlise le feiceáil chuile Mháirt – inár measc tá fiddleacha, giotáir (leictreach, acústach, agus fiú, dordghiotár), drumaí, píobáí uilleann, agus níos mó fós. Cruthaíonn an meascán stíleanna seo éagsúlacht dochreidte agus cuireann sé béim ar na féidearthachtaí a bhaineann leis an gceol.

Dar ndóigh, déanaimid iarracht an nasc traidisiúnta a choimeád láidir, ag déanamh athchóirithe ar phíosaí traidisiúnta nó ag tabhairt eilimintí traidisiúnta isteach i bpíosaí nach bhfuil sa stíl sin.

Ina theannta sin, tá seomra stórála d'uirlisí agus nithe eile bainteach leis an gceol anois againn sa scoil. Ní bheadh an seomra sin againn nó cultúr láidir an cheoil sa scoil ann, gan obair chrua spreagadh Mháistir Uí Dhubhurthuile. Tá díograis an Mháistir i leith an cheoil le moladh, agus anuas ar sin, tá tacaíocht na múinteoirí ar fad le moladh. Tá todhchaí an cheoil i gColáiste Eoin lasrach agus geal agus táimid ag tnúth go mór leis an méid atá romhainn.





Coiste Glas

Ó thús na bliana, tá an-chuid feachtas curtha i bhfeidhm ag an gCoiste Glas. Ar dtús, tá córas nua bruscair curtha i bhfeidhm timpeall na scoile le dathanna ar leith chun mearbhall agus leisciúlacht a sheachaint. Ina theannta sin, chuireamar go mór leis an gcóras Re-Turn ó anuraidh, le breis pointí taise agus boscaí speisialta bruscair mórtimpeall na scoile.

Tá ag éirí go hiontach linn lenár mbrat Bithéagsúlachta, le boscaí éan agus óstán feithidí cruthaithe ag na ranganna adhmaadóireachta. Táimid ag súil go mór leis na painéil ghréine ó Renewables Ireland san athbhliain agus le gach feachtas nua a bheadh le cur i bhfeidhm. Táimid bródúil as an dul chun cinn atá déanta againn agus táimid ag tnúth leis an méid eile a thabharfaidh an scoilbhliain seo dúinn.

Ár mBliain Spórtúil

Bhí bliain spóirt thar a bheith gnóthach agus spreagúil againn go dtí seo, agus mar chaptaen, bhí sé mar phribhléid agam a bheith páirteach agus ár bpobal spóirt a fheiceáil ag teacht le chéile.

Bhí an fhoireann shinsearach peile thar a bheith díograiseach agus d'oibrigh siad go dian i ngach cluiche, ní a léiríonn spiorad mór na meithle agus tiomantas chuncuidiú le chéile. D'oibrigh an fhoireann shinsearach iománaíochta go dian dúthrachtach agus léirigh siad paisean agus cumas ar leith, ag spreagadh gach duine sa scoil.



Gan dearmad a dhéanamh ar an bhfoireann eitpheile atá fós sa chraobh. Léirigh siad díograis agus tiomantas i ngach cluiche agus sa tslí a thacaíonn siad lena chéile.

Tá sé spreagúil freisin na stócaigh óga a fheiceáil ag imirt iománaíochta agus peile ag am lóin. Cothaíonn an spórt seo cairdeas, spiorad foirne agus meas ar obair chrua don aos óg. Tá sé tábhachtach go leanfaidís leis, agus go ndéanfaimis uile ár ndícheall chun feabhsú. Níl an bhliain thart fós, agus táim ag tnúth leis an athbhlian le dúshláin nua, bua agus spraoi. Agus ag déanamh deimhin de meas agus misneach a léiriú i gcónaí.

Oatlands Primary School

Christmas Tree Decoration Competition

Students worked so hard this year, using recycled materials to create Christmas decorations. This year the entries were outstanding! Well done to Ms Keane and the Green Council for all their hard work.



Recycled Christmas Tree Decoration Competition

The Recycled Christmas Decoration Competition was a huge success and we had the biggest number of entries we've ever had! A huge amount of effort went in to each and every piece and the exceptional creativity made it very difficult to pick a winner.



In the end it was Sabina Crau's Christmas Tree that won and she went on to represent our school at a ceremony in Dun Laoghaire County Council. Very well done Sabina!

Here is how Sabina made her decoration using recycled materials and a piece about the event she attended.



Supporting St. Vincent De Paul at Oatlands

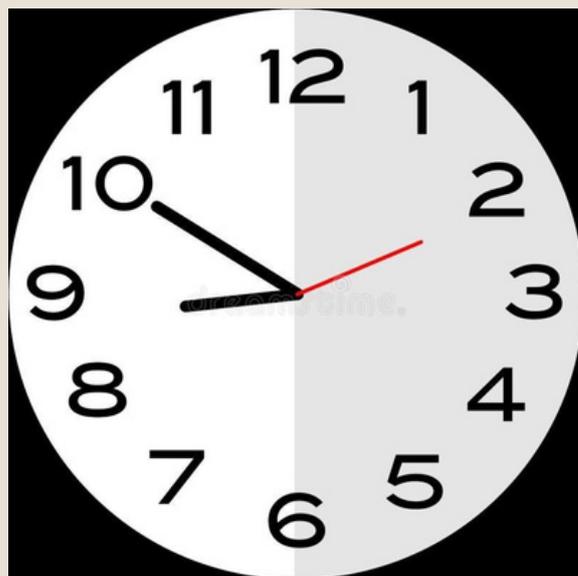
Our Erst Council recently collected 429 euro for St Vincent De Paul! Thanks to all of the wonderful school council students for organizing this recent non- uniform day, and helping to gather all the much needed funds for this wonderful organisation. As we know, St Vincent De Paul works tirelessly to help those in need, especially during winter time, when expenditures are especially high for families. Thanks to all the students of Oatlands for contributing to this worthy cause.



'Little hat' tree decorations were created by second class to sell at school, for St Vincent de Paul. We are always delighted to support this wonderful charity, and over 200 euro was raised by Ms. Grimes and Ms. Glynn's classes.

School Council - Be Present

Our ERST School Council are supporting our drive to "Be Present, be on Time". Student well-being starts first thing in the morning with everyone trying hard to come to school on time! Students can even encourage grown ups to be on time too. Settling into the school day is then so much less stressful for students, and the class as a whole. Erst Council Students have been creating posters for this initiative, which will be used to encourage students to arrive on time, to benefit from a harmonious beginning of their school day. These posters will be displayed at our school, sending a message of positive attendance.



Maths Masters

A huge congratulations to our amazing mathematicians from 6th class who came in second place (out of 20 schools) in the recent Maths Masters Competition. Our team was made up of Adam Nada, Max Gormally Whittaker, Chen Xi Li and Joaquin Tang. This is a fantastic achievement and once again highlights the mathematical prowess of Oatlands students. Thanks to Mr. Moloney for getting the team prepared for the competition.

Wormery Update



The worms are working hard to make compost for our school. They are enjoying all the fruit and vegetable peelings from the staffroom. In winter we are feeding them once every 2 weeks. Above is Conor from the Green Schools Committee showing Pierce how to look after the worms and feed them. Well done boys!



Laudato Si Unity Project: Student Leaders Preparing for the March 2026 Conferences

Last year's Laudato Si Unity Project Student Council Conferences marked a significant milestone in student voice and collaboration across the Edmund Rice network. Over 245 students and 50 staff from 44 schools gathered for regional conferences that featured powerful student presentations, dynamic workshops and the memorable "Walk in My Shoes" session, where young people shared moving personal accounts of resilience, challenge and hope. These events created a strong foundation of partnership, leadership and solidarity that continues to energise the network. Building on this momentum, a planning meeting of student councils and liaison teachers took place online in early December to prepare for the next phase of the project, with the 2026 Student Council Conferences scheduled for March 2026. Students shared updates on their current justice and advocacy projects, reflected on this year's themes and identified ways to make the upcoming gatherings even more student-led and impactful.

The 2026 conferences will be hosted regionally by St Joseph's Fairview (Dublin), Sexton Street CBS (Limerick), North Monastery Coeducational Secondary School (Cork) and Woodbrook College (Bray). These gatherings will once again provide students with opportunities to connect, collaborate and strengthen their leadership within the Edmund Rice tradition.

This year's project continues to be guided by three network-wide advocacy themes: Caring for Our Common Home, Homelessness, and Inclusion and Belonging.

During the December planning meeting, students also discussed current and emerging issues affecting their schools and wider communities:

- **Mobile Phone Policies:** Inspired by the Australian model, students explored the impact of school phone bans and reflected on the proposed national ban on social media for under-16s.
- **Gender Equality:** Students highlighted their awareness-raising work.
- **Show Racism the Red Card – North Monastery:** As the proud host of the Cork regional conference, North Monastery celebrated winning the Junior Section Award for their impactful anti-racism work and will present on this initiative. A 2nd-year student's original rap song, "I Choose," may even open the conference.

Students also shared updates on homelessness campaigns, environmental actions and initiatives promoting inclusion and belonging. These contributions helped to shape the priorities and workshop design for the March 2026 gatherings.

The Laudato Si Unity Project continues to be a vibrant expression of student leadership, solidarity and shared mission—and the March 2026 conferences promise to deepen formation, strengthen student voice and inspire collective action across the Edmund Rice network.



Presentation to a student from the North Monastery Coeducational Secondary School Cork, winner of the Show Racism the Red Card Competition organised by the Immigrant Council of Ireland