



LE CHÉILE SCHOOLS TRUST

SCHOOLS' NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2025

Welcome from the CEO

On behalf of the Le Chéile team, I am delighted to introduce this edition of the Le Chéile Schools Trust Newsletter. It offers just a snapshot of the rich and varied work taking place across our community of schools, and we are immensely proud of all that our pupils and staff have achieved this term.

Throughout visits and conversations, it has been heartening to see our core values of 'Welcome, Wisdom and Witness' lived out daily in the way pupils support one another, in the commitment of staff to high-quality learning, and in the strong, nurturing relationships that define our schools. These values continue to shape who we are and the kind of education our schools strive to provide.

Our sincere thanks go to colleagues in every school for their dedication, creativity and unwavering focus on the young people in their care. We would also like to thank those who have contributed articles to this newsletter. While not every school is represented in this edition, the collective strength, ambition and quality across the Le Chéile Schools is unmistakable. I am very grateful to the Le Chéile Trust Executive Team, whose expertise and support are central to enabling our schools to flourish.

This term has also seen excellent engagement from schools in a wide range of Le Chéile Schools events and initiatives,



and it has been inspiring to witness such enthusiastic participation. We look forward to welcoming even more members of our community to future events as we continue to grow and strengthen our shared work.

We are fortunate to be supported by our member congregations, whose guidance, encouragement and ongoing commitment to the mission of the Trust remain deeply valued. We would also like to acknowledge the vital work of our Boards of Management, who give so generously of their time and expertise to ensure that each school is well governed and supported.

Over the coming months, the Le Chéile Team looks forward to visiting many more schools, deepening our understanding of each setting and celebrating the achievements and aspirations that make our community so special.

On a personal note, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Executive Team, our Boards of Directors, our congregations, and to every school community for the warm welcome I have received since beginning in this role in September. Your encouragement, kindness and partnership have been invaluable and deeply appreciated.

As we approach Christmas, I would like to wish everyone in the Le Chéile Community a very happy, peaceful and restful Christmas. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together in the year ahead.

Orla Condren

Chief Executive Officer



LE CHÉILE SCHOOLS

Le Chéile schools are committed to the promotion of a value-based education built on the shared purpose of:



Scoil Chaitríona

Dhá Lá Speisialta

An téarma seo, bhí maidin caife agus díolachán cácaí againn chun airgead a bhailiú don Ospís.

D'éagraigh Comhairle na Scoláirí, le tacaíocht ó Choiste na dTuismitheoirí, an lá sóisialta, uilescoile seo. Ócáid ollmhór a bhí ann, le neart cuairteoirí, ina measc iarscoláirí agus páistí óga ó na bunscoileanna áitiúla.

Léiríodh flaitiúlacht dochreidte ar an lá, agus bhailíomar €3,500 chun tacú le hobair iontach na hOspíse

Chuaigh na scoláirí ó Chomhairle na Scoláirí chuig St Francis' Hospice chun an seic a bhronnadh orthu. Bhí seans acu labhairt le foireann na hOspíse, agus fáil amach faoin obair iontach, luachmhar a dhéantar ana. Chuaigh an chuairt seo go mór i bhfeidhm ar na scoláirí, agus thug siad óráid do phobail na scoile faoi ag tionól uilescoile.

Tá cúpla grianghraf le feiceáil thíos:

An Mhaidin Chaifé



Cuairt ar an Ospís



Ballinteer Community School

In November our School held our first "In November we Remember Gathering". As a School and as a community we wanted to take time out to remember and celebrate our loved ones who have passed away.

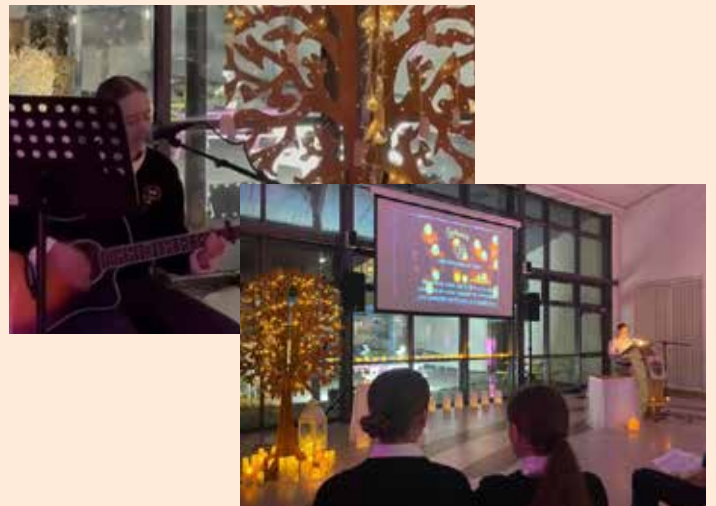


We often talk about our family or our clann, our support, but in Irish tradition we also have our Muintir, our tribe or our community. The people will lean on, we celebrate with, with laugh with, we cry with and even on occasion we rage with. In Ballinteer Community School we gathered with our Muintir. We came together as a united group on the 13th November at 7pm in our School. We remembered all who have gone before us, all who we have lost, all who need comfort and support. We gathered to remind us all, that we are a strong community! who mind and look out for each other. We called to mind, Pope Francis, in announcing "Pilgrims of Hope" as the theme for this Jubilee Year, he wrote: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit and a trusting heart"

We remembered through prayer, music, a roll of honour and lighting up our Tree of Hope. To all who made the effort to join us on a dark and rainy night, thank you, your presence meant so much.

Ní neart go cur le chéile There is no strength without unity.

Rachel Garland Chaplain



Ursuline Secondary School

As the 2025/2026 theme for the Ursuline schools of Ireland says, we'd like to 'Welcome' you to our update for this term. As always, it's been a busy few months here in Thurles, but two highlights that stand out so far were our school show, 'Legally Blonde', and our Senior Cycle Careers Day.

This year, our school presented the musical, 'Legally Blonde'. We spent just over a month rehearsing, with the exceptional Ms. Butler and Ms. Flanagan. Thanks to their help, we had six sold out shows, each one followed by a standing ovation. With over two hundred students on stage, it was no easy task, but it was all worth it in the end to see the audience's faces and hear their amazing feedback.



The costumes this year were bold and fashionable. There was lots of colour involved in both the costumes and the set which was painted by Ms. Delahunt and some of her TYs. This looked outstanding from an audience perspective, it also helped us to embody the characters and to tell the story of 'Legally Blonde' and Elle Woods on stage.



This show allowed our school community to connect and helped to form new friendships. With the extent of fun we had, both backstage and on stage, it made for a very enjoyable and memorable experience for all. As Ms Flanagan reminded us daily, "there is no such thing as small

actors, just small parts". This constant reminder helped with confidence on stage for everyone but especially the third years who may have never taken to the stage before. We are so grateful that we have the opportunity to create and be a part of shows like this every year.

In November, the school hosted its biannual Senior Cycle Careers Day. The morning began with a brilliant panel discussion, chaired by Careers teacher Ms Walsh. The panel was made up of five past pupils representing different fields of work: science, finance, medical, business and engineering. They spoke with great pride about their time in our school, their career paths, the challenges they have faced and the opportunities they have seized along the way. Their inspirational stories, told with humour and charm, allowed students to start thinking more deeply about their own career paths and focused them on the possibilities that the future holds for them. For the students to hear from these successful women, who sat in the same classrooms as them not long ago, made for a truly inspiring morning.



After this, the school's Sports Complex hosted representatives from third level universities, local businesses, the Gardai and the Defence Forces who all showcased the various pathways and possibilities that lie ahead of us, from apprenticeships to diplomas to degrees and beyond. Students were able ask insightful questions about the courses on offer, engage in conversation about the various paths that exist and to think about the huge variety of options that exist. It was an informative and inspiring day.



Ciara Power, Hayley Bourke & Saoirse Coen, TY.

Holy Faith Secondary School, Clontarf

A key moment this term in Holy Faith Clontarf was our November Remembrance Service, held in St. John the Baptist Church and led by Fr. John O'Brien. The school community came together to reflect on those who have gone before us, creating a calm and supportive space within the busy term.

Students contributed through readings and music, helping to honour the memory of loved ones. We also remembered individuals through the parish Remembrance Tree, where students added the names of those special to them. Candles were lit in their memory, symbolising the enduring presence and light of those we honour.

The service offered a quiet moment to pause, reflect, and support one another, emphasising the importance of remembering those who have shaped our lives. It provided a meaningful opportunity for everyone at Holy Faith Clontarf to come together and acknowledge the lives of those we hold dear.



De La Salle College Churchtown

Debating Teams

The first term of 2025/2026 saw De La Salle's Senior Debating Team winning first place in the first round of the prestigious Leinster Senior Schools Debating Competition in UCD. Two teams represented the college - Bernardo De Castro Hogemann & Davit Gamjashviliin in sixth year; and Daniel Graham & Zac Looney in fifth year. The highly prestigious competition has been hosted by Trinity Colleges' Historical Society, and UCD's Law and History Society for over forty years.

Debaters from all over Leinster argued passionately and logically over the motion, "This House Believes That Parents Should Not Inflate Their Children's Expectations Of What They Are Capable Of Achieving." The same motion was debated in eight different rooms at the same time, with the top two teams in each room awarded the best speakers. Bernardo and Davit spoke for proposition; while in a room just down the corridor Zac and Dan spoke for the opposition.

Both teams distinguished themselves, and were commended by the judges for their rebuttal and their ability to structure complex arguments under pressure. Bernardo and Davit emerged as the top team for their room, but both teams progressed to the next round.

Meanwhile, the Junior Debating teams have been equally busy with the Leinster Junior Debating Competition, also hosted by UCD's Law and History Society. Matthew Brophy & Michael Gan kicked off the season in October by arguing against the motion "Cancel Culture Has Gone Too Far"; and Natalia Siama and Cormac Smith are gearing up for their first round where they will argue against the motion "This House Believes That Parents Should Be Found Criminally Liable For Their Underage Children's Crimes". All junior teams will debate twice before judges decide who will advance to the second round in January.

We extend our warmest congratulations to the teams and their coach Ms Madden, as well as Debating Club Head Ms McDermott. Please join us in wishing all teams luck for the next round in January!



From Puzzles to Perfect Scores - Students Shine in Maths Week 2025



Maths Week 2025 was a wonderful celebration of mathematical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving across the school. Students from all year groups took part in a wide range of engaging activities designed to show that maths is not just about numbers — it's about curiosity, discovery, and fun.

Our Transition Year students kicked off the week with a trip to *A Medley of Mathematics* at the National Concert Hall, an inspiring talk given by 3 guest speakers, blending maths and magic in an unexpected and fun way.

Students from 2nd Year, Transition Year, and 5th Year proudly represented the school in the IMTA Maggie Gough Mathematics Competition, with three students achieving an outstanding 100% score - **Boyu Qian, Guochen He, and Levante Csoban** - a fantastic achievement and a testament to the hard work and enthusiasm that they show towards maths year round.

1st Year students took part in the *1% Club Quiz: Maths Edition*, testing their quick thinking and teamwork skills. 2nd Years brought some Halloween spirit to their learning with coordinate colouring, while 5th Years challenged themselves with tarsia puzzles to revise key algebra concepts in a collaborative and enjoyable way.

Throughout the week, both junior and senior cycle students also participated in daily maths puzzles, with a winner announced each day — a highlight that encouraged students to engage with problem-solving beyond the classroom. Well done to **Anastasia Kyssa, Ivan Chen, Kai Wilders, Daniel Graham, Will Graham, Maksym Grygoriev, James Reynolds, and Matthew Deveney** who won prizes for correctly solving the problems!

Maths Week 2025 was a true celebration of learning, creativity, and community. Well done to all our students and teachers for making the week such a success!



De La Salle College Dundalk

Our dedicated team of students and two teachers worked tirelessly during the mid-term break to complete the library renovation of Ndururi Junior Secondary School in Kenya.

This project transformed an empty space into a vibrant new library, providing local students with access to educational materials and a dedicated reading space, promoting literacy for years to come.

The school was very fortunate to receive multiple donations which enabled our team to achieve their goals.

We are extremely proud of Ms Begley, Mr McGuinness and our twelve boys who lived out our Lasallian ethos in such a meaningful way.



St. David's Holy Faith, Greystones



It has been a meaningful and vibrant term at St. David's Holy Faith, Greystones as our school community continues to live out the values of the Le Chéile ethos through action, reflection and service.

We began the term with our school Mass, which focused on the theme of friendship — a reminder of the importance of compassion, connection and inclusion within our school and wider community.

A highlight this year has been the incredible opportunity for some of our 5th year students, who travelled to Zambia. This experience allowed them to engage with global citizenship and learn firsthand about social responsibility and shared humanity.

We have also embraced diversity with our participation in French and Spanish exchanges this term and through our very successful Languages fortnight which included an international buffet, flamenco dancing and a Japanese cultural workshop.

Our Transition Year students have also been busy supporting Barretstown through a range of creative fundraising events. Their commitment and enthusiasm have brought great energy to the school community.

Service and solidarity continue to be central to life at St. David's. The Ethos Team will take part in a Sleep Out for Tiglin on December 12th, standing in solidarity with those facing homelessness and addiction.

Our school's Young SVP Conference has hampers wrapped and ready to be filled for the Sugarloaf Lions Club and SVP Greystones which will be distributed to local families in need just before Christmas. Each base classroom has a decorated box which will be filled with pasta, rice, nappies, sauces, cereals, tinned foods, toiletries, and children's games. It will bring joy to some families for whom this Christmas will be particularly challenging.

Alongside this, we are proud of the many meaningful Young Social Innovators (YSI) projects currently taking place. These include:

- Designing and making toys for disadvantaged children
- Creating a support group for siblings of children with additional needs
- Encouraging girls to stay involved in sport
- Promoting healthy eating and positive lifestyle habits

Each project reflects student initiative, empathy and leadership — hallmarks of our school mission.

Throughout November, the Ethos Team led our annual "We Remember" initiative, offering space to reflect on and honour loved ones who have passed away. As we move into December, the school community has now turned its focus to Advent, preparing in hope and gratitude for the season ahead.

At St. David's, we are proud of how our students continue to embody friendship, justice, respect and service — not only in words, but through meaningful action



St Ursula's Primary School, Waterford

Two New Special Classes Open

We were delighted to open two new Special Classes for Autistic pupils at the start of this school year. Even in these first months, the classes have already made a wonderful difference to the children, their families, and our whole school community.

While the classes are temporarily based in our school hall, we are eagerly looking forward to moving into our new modular building in January!

The positive impact reaches far beyond the new classrooms. Pupils across the school are learning more about inclusion, kindness, and understanding. Staff are developing new skills and insights, and the entire school community has come together to offer a warm and genuine welcome.

The opening of these classes marks an exciting step forward for St Ursula's. It reflects our commitment to ensuring that every child feels valued, included, and supported to thrive.

THE LE CHÉILE PRAYER

In the power of the Spirit
and in keeping with the traditions of our
founding Congregations we pray that,
for students, parents and teachers alike;
our schools
may be places of learning and discovery
places of hope and joy
places of courage and confidence
places of gratitude and generosity
places of faith rooted in love.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord
Amen.

PAIDIR LE CHÉILE

I gcumhacht an Spioraid
Agus de réir thraidisiúin ár nOrd Bunaithe
Do mhic léinn, tuismitheoirí agus do mhúinteoirí araon
Guimid go mbeidh
Ár gcuid scoileanna
Ina n-ionaid foghlama agus fionnachtana
Ina n-ionaid dóchais agus áthais
Ina n-ionaid misnigh agus muiníne
Ina n-ionaid buíochais agus móraigeantachta
Ina n-ionaid creidimh fréamhaithe sa ghrá.
Sin é ár ngúil tré Chríost ár dTiarna
Amen.

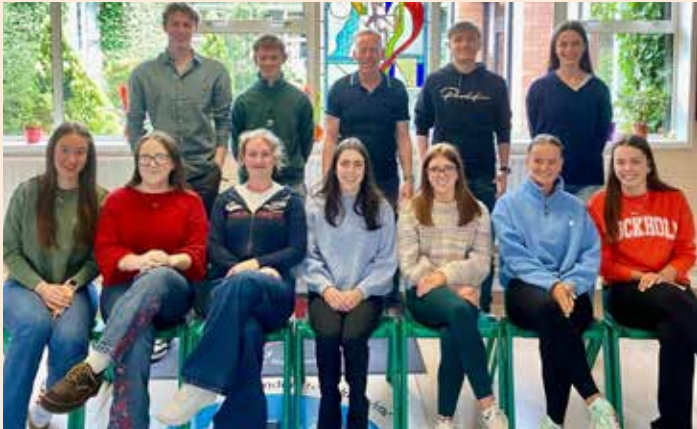


FCJ Bunclody

Before the upcoming school year kicked off, the entire staff gathered together with a number of our FCJ Sisters to reflect on our school's ethos and how it makes us so unique from other institutes. We base ourselves here on the core FCJ Sisters' values of; Truth, Respect and Justice. A huge thanks to; Sr Bríd, Sr Catherine and Sr Eileen who led us in reflection, stories and spirituality which means so much to us here.



Each of the students pictured here secured a colossal 600 points or more in their Leaving Cert, including five who secured the maximum 625. This has even broken our own record high of three students last year obtaining 625.



Our beginning of year mass was a great opportunity to welcome the new priest in Bunclody, Fr John Byrne. At the mass our Principal Mr Daly addressed the congregation and he shared his vision and hopes for each student in FCJ during the coming year.



The FCJ Careers Fair 2025, the biggest careers fair in this corner of Ireland was hosted by FCJ Bunclody, offering our students an unparalleled opportunity to explore a wide array of career paths.



For the third year in a row, FCJ Bunclody has had a Naughton Scholarship award winner! This year it was, Sarah Byrne! Mr Daly, had the privilege of representing our school in Trinity College Dublin. To give a bit of context here, there were 38 Naughton winners this year, taken from over 1000 applications! Another wildly impressive fact is that Sarah's sister, Mary Byrne, won this same award in 2023!



In sport, 6th Year student, Ryan Butler jetted off to Qatar in November for the U17 Soccer World Cup 2025. As you know, Ryan was selected for the squad this year. He is the first person in FCJ to make an Ireland soccer squad and we are hugely proud of him. Along with this, it is

the first time Ireland has qualified for the World Cup at this age level!

Also, everybody here has been tracking Michael Redmond's recent rise to success in rugby. A great sportsman that often dug deep in the pivotal moments of a game representing his school and club, now will be doing the same for his province. Michael is part of the Leinster U18 squad. He currently trains every Monday with the YSP - Youth Select Programme with Leinster.



St Louis Secondary School, Carrickmacross

It's been a very busy three months in St. Louis Carrickmacross. We started the year with the opening of our second ASD unit, Rang Aoibheann. Alongside this, we have installed a new state-of-the-art Cubbie sensory pod. This area provides a calm, supportive space for our students and helps them escape the hustle and bustle of school life when needed.



We have also been granted a new modular building from the Department of Education, which will see the construction of two new art rooms, a science lab and 2 classrooms.

Our students have been very busy as well. We held our annual TY sleep out in the school's PE hall in aid of the 'Shine a Light' campaign, raising awareness of homelessness.



Our second years made the Atlantic Ocean their classroom for two days, as they tried out surfing in Lahinch.



Our TY Christmas trade fair has just taken place, allowing students to show their entrepreneurial and Christmas spirit.



Dominican Primary School, Dun Laoghaire

Since the start of the year our school has enjoyed an exceptionally vibrant and enriching programme of activities, each one reflecting our commitment to creativity, inclusion, and community.

We began the term with *Friendship Week*, a much-loved annual tradition that encourages pupils to explore what it truly means to be a good friend. Classrooms buzzed with discussion, art projects, partner challenges, and small acts of kindness that grew into something bigger across the school. This gentle momentum carried seamlessly into *Bí Cineálta Week*. Pupils reflected on how everyday words and choices can shape the wellbeing of others. The senior classes created wonderful creative posters for these weeks which were displayed throughout the school. The whole school focused on kindness, celebrating friendships and reaffirmed our anti-bullying stance. The whole school made a giant poster



A particular highlight of the term was the unforgettable visit from the Palestinian Circus. The workshop session that followed gave some pupils the opportunity to try out circus skills themselves, promoting confidence, teamwork, and joyful self-expression. We were also delighted to host a harpist through the Creative Schools initiative, whose visit introduced pupils to the magic and history of this beautiful instrument. The children were fascinated by the harp's sound and construction. Classes from 4th-6th have also started learning the ukulele in partnership with Music Generation, we look forward to hearing the progress they make throughout the year.



Beyond the arts, our school has also taken exciting steps in environmental learning. In partnership with Festina Lente, we have begun work on a new school garden project. Over the coming months, pupils will have hands-on opportunities to learn about planting, biodiversity, soil health, and the responsibility of caring for a living space. The first planning sessions have already sparked lively conversations about what we hope to grow, how to make the garden welcoming for pollinators, and how each class can contribute.



Our Lady's Grove Secondary School Goatstown

Our school party travelled to China in October 2025. This is the seventh time a School group has travelled to China from OLG.



On this occasion we had incredible cultural, social and linguistic experiences. We visited Beijing and Wuhan specifically and used an overnight train to travel between the two. Other highlights were The Great Wall, The Forbidden City, travelling via the subway, and the endless shopping.



St Mary's Holy Faith Killester

We are delighted to share some of the exciting successes and milestones from this term at St. Mary's, Killester.

School of Excellence in Creativity Award

St. Mary's is delighted to announce that our school has been chosen as one of just 16 schools nationwide to participate in the School of Excellence in Creativity Award. This exciting two-year programme will help us nurture creativity in teaching and learning. It's a fantastic opportunity for our students and staff to shine and grow together.

Prefect Handover – A Celebration of Leadership

One of the standout moments this term was our Prefect Handover Event. Our new 5th Year Prefects met with last year's leadership team in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The event featured an inspiring presentation by one of our Senior Prefects on the role and expectations of prefects, followed by an open discussion where last year's team shared their experiences and personal reflections. We rounded off the occasion with a delicious lunch and plenty of laughter—a true celebration of student leadership and community spirit.

Student Voice in Action

We are also delighted to introduce our newly elected Student Council and Student Voice Team, facilitated by Ms. Leetch. These groups play a vital role in shaping our school culture and ensuring that every student's voice is heard. Their work reflects the strong value we place on leadership, collaboration, and respect—core principles that guide everything we do in St. Mary's.



Gaisce – The President's Award

One of the standout successes in St. Mary's continues to be our Gaisce – The President's Award programme, which has been a cornerstone of student development at St. Mary's for the past 15 years. Under the dedicated leadership of Ms. Kay Durkin, who has 40 years experience with Gaisce, the programme has empowered countless students to challenge themselves, grow in confidence, and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

We are especially proud to share that Ms. Durkin recently represented St. Mary's at the Gaisce Leaders conference in Dublin Castle, where she sat on a distinguished panel discussing the impact and future of the Gaisce initiative. This recognition highlights not only her commitment but also the strength of our school's involvement in fostering leadership and resilience among young people.



W.A. Barrett Scholarship in Engineering from Maynooth University

Ema Rowlands, who served as Head Girl last year, is now studying Robotics and Intelligent Devices at Maynooth University, pursuing her dream course. Ema discovered her passion for robotics while attending the Robotics Club at St. Mary's, led by Ms. Hart. Her curiosity and commitment flourished in this innovative environment, and today she is taking the next step toward a future in technology. We are delighted to announce that Ema has been awarded the W.A. Barrett Scholarship in Engineering by Maynooth University. We are so proud of Ema's achievements and look forward to what comes next for her.



Jesus and Mary Secondary School Salerno



The school community all supported Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox appeal, making a big difference to many lives this Christmas.



Congratulations to Saidbh McNamara, TY, who will represent Connaught in Rotary Youth Leadership Development Competition in Strasbourg in the New Year. We are extremely proud of Saidbh's achievements.



The theme of our opening school mass this year was about hope with the message: 'When the world says 'give up, Hope whispers try it one more time'.



During the recent 38th General Chapter of the RJM Sisters, a past pupil, Sr. Jennifer Burke, was elected onto the general council leadership team, something we are very proud of in Salerno. We wish the new team well as they support Jesus and Mary communities throughout the world.



Well done to our U15 soccer team who were named as the School of the Year for the previous academic year. We are very proud of their achievements.

During the business of the return to school, retreats and bonding days were organised for our different year groups. These days are always welcomed by the school community. First and Second Year students attended a day in Knock with the Youth Ministry Team and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

During November, each class group, along with their RE teacher, is invited to take part in a Remembrance Ceremony in our prayer room.

Prefects in Dominican College, Taylor's Hill, St. Joseph's College (The Bish) and Jesus and Mary, Salerno completed a day of leadership training with Seamus Cahalan, recently retired DP from 'The Bish'. This follows on from a wonderful training event last year and has encouraged the Prefects in their role as student leaders. A big thank you to Seamus and a lovely opportunity for our 3 Le Chéile Schools to connect.

Manor House School

A Term of Celebration and Community

What a vibrant and bustling term it has been at Manor House School! Our community has been alive with a fantastic array of events, showcasing the incredible talents, diversity, and spirit of our students. From artistic performances to cultural celebrations, the term has been filled with memorable highlights.

A particular standout has been the flourishing Culture Club, which has truly embodied our school's value of inclusivity. Meeting every Thursday in the library, this welcoming club for all students has been a hive of activity, organising three magnificent events this term.

First, the club hosted a spectacular Culture Lunch for Culture Night, transforming the library into a global marketplace of flavours



and fellowship. This was followed by a beautiful celebration of the Hindu festival of Diwali. The school was filled with the vibrant sights and sounds of India, as students enjoyed traditional food and music, learning about the festival of lights and its message of good triumphing over evil.

The Culture Club's efforts culminated in a breathtaking Culture Concert for Think Languages Day. The performance was a true testament to our school's diversity, with talented students taking to the stage to sing beautiful songs from Poland, France, the Philippines, and China. It was a powerful and moving demonstration of how language and music can bring us all closer together.

These events, driven by the passion of our students, have made this term exceptionally rich. They have provided wonderful opportunities for us all to learn from one another, celebrate our differences, and strengthen the bonds that make Manor House such a special and inclusive community.

We look forward to more achievements and celebrations in 2026.



Patrician Presentation Secondary School

This term we welcomed our new first years and we look forward to seeing them grow and prosper over the next six years! It has been a busy term with lots going on, in so many areas. At present, preparations are well under way for our school show, 'Grease The Musical,' which will be staged on December 5th, 6th and 7th in our local Abymill Theatre. There is great excitement and anticipation throughout the corridors of the school!



Over the last few weeks our students were given a wonderful opportunity see what daily life is like for students in Kibera, Kenya. A series of Zoom calls were organized and each year group was given a tour of the local area, schools, markets and students' homes. This was an inspiring and eye-opening experience for everyone. Our students were able to ask the students in Kibera questions about their daily lives and their experience of school life in Kenya. Plans are afoot to organize 'Kenya Week', later in the year, to build on this relationship and to fundraise for the students in Kibera.



This term has seen the introduction of many new initiatives in the school. Hockey and Basketball teams have been established and a school Guitar Club has been set up. A new gym facility is opening in the coming weeks. This is a joint venture between P.P.S.S and Fethard G.A.A./Ladies Football clubs. Students have a wide range of extra-curricular activities this year to enjoy at lunchtimes and

after school. Our school website has been completely revamped and our I.T. facilities have been improved. At the moment we are putting the finishing touches to Volume 2 of 'Our School Prayer Book', and it will go to print in early December. Once again students and staff have contributed to make this a wonderful collection of prayers, reflections and students' artwork.

In late September we had a very special afternoon when the Liam Mc Carthy trophy was brought to the school. Students greatly enjoyed getting their photos taken with the prestigious trophy!



In September Fifth year student Hollie Nash, led an art project entitled, 'We Fit In', where every student and staff member in the school decorated a jigsaw puzzle piece. Hollie then assembled them to make a beautiful piece of art work, which is prominently displayed in school...a reminder of our shared purpose and the strong bonds of our school community.



St Laurence College

Celebrating Family Spirit and the Strive for Excellence

As a proud Marianist *Le Chéile* school, St Laurence College continues to embody the values of family spirit and a commitment to excellence in all aspects of school life. Our mission centres on the holistic development of each student nurturing mind, body, and spirit and ensuring that every young person who walks through our doors is supported, challenged, and celebrated. The first term of this academic year has been a testament to that spirit, filled with community, faith, achievement, and joy.

Our **Exam Results Celebration** was a powerful reflection of our students' dedication and perseverance. It was more than an academic milestone it was a moment to honour the collective effort of students, teachers, and families working together. We celebrated not just grades, but growth: the determination, resilience, and integrity our students showed in striving for their personal best. In the Marianist tradition, excellence is not defined by comparison, but by each individual's journey toward becoming the fullest version of themselves.



In September, our **First-Year High Cross Trip** offered new students a chance to build lasting friendships and begin their St Laurence journey in a spirit of community and connection. This special day away from the classroom allowed them to bond, reflect, and experience the joy of belonging to something greater than themselves. As always, the emphasis was on inclusion, respect, and the beginning of lifelong friendships a true expression of our family spirit in action.



Faith remains at the heart of who we are. Our **Whole-School Mass** gathered the entire St Laurence community in prayer and reflection, offering a moment of unity and thanksgiving. It was an opportunity to pause and reconnect with the Marianist values that guide us faith, service, and community.



Opening our doors to the wider community, the **Open Evening** welcomed the next generation of students and their families. Staff and students alike shared their experiences, showcasing not only academic programmes but also the warmth and inclusivity that make our school unique. The event embodied our mission to welcome all with open hearts, reflecting our Marianist call to hospitality and community.

The **Transition Year trip to Carlingford** was another highlight a chance for students to grow in independence, leadership, and teamwork.

Meanwhile, our **Jersey Day** reminded us that service is an integral part of education. Students and staff donned their team colours to raise funds and awareness for community causes, living out our shared responsibility to make a difference.

We concluded the term with one of our most joyful traditions the **Br Fred Pumpkin Carving**. This creative, laughter-filled event celebrated both Halloween and the end of a vibrant first term. It perfectly captured our ethos: joy in community, gratitude for our shared journey, and pride in all we have achieved together.



As the term closes, we celebrate not just accomplishments but the spirit behind them a spirit of family, faith, and excellence that defines St Laurence College.



St. Wolstan's Community School

Kindness in Action at St. Wolstan's

November has been a month of kindness, inclusion and teamwork at St. Wolstan's. Our school community has embraced opportunities to live out our values through three inspiring initiatives. Here is a snapshot of some:

✦ Bí Cineálta Awareness Week ✦

This week, we've highlighted our Bí Cineálta policy, which promotes kindness and respect in every aspect of school life. Our 4th and 5th Year Student Leadership Teams visited every class to explain:

- What the policy means
- How we support kindness in action
- Where students can find help or advice

Activities included classroom resources, social media campaigns, and a poster competition. "It's about making sure everyone feels safe and supported," said one student ambassador. Huge thanks to our ambassadors and to Ms. Guilfoyle and Ms. McMahon for their guidance.



🎁 Shoebox Appeal Success! 🎁

Kindness took centre stage in our Shoebox Appeal. Thanks to the generosity of our students and Ms. Quinn, School Chaplain:

- 1st Years donated items and funds
- 5th Years wrapped and packed the boxes

Together, students raised €150 and prepared 30 shoeboxes filled with gifts and care. These will bring joy to those in need this Christmas. "It's amazing what we can achieve when we work together," shared a 5th Year student.

🏳️ Stand Up Week

In the spirit of inclusion, Ms. Hamilton's 5th Year RE class created powerful posters to celebrate respect and diversity. We proudly raised the flag to show solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community and reaffirm our commitment to a school where everyone belongs.

At St. Wolstan's, kindness and inclusion aren't just words—they are actions. Thank you to all students and staff who make our school a place of care and respect.



Scoil Róis



Cake sale in aid of COPE

Our Halloween Cake sale is a tradition that goes back for over 40 years in Scoil Róis. It has always taken place during the week leading up to midterm break and this year was no different. All classes get involved and children are encouraged to donate toys that are in good quality in the lead up to the big day. On the day itself, all children bring

in homemade buns and cakes. It is a lovely tradition which sees children baking with their parents the night before. Our 5th and 6th Class pupils organise the sales with their teachers and they just love selling the toys and cakes. We also have fortune tellers, raffles, balloons, nail art, face painting and much more. It is absolute chaos but it is the highlight of the year for all pupils. To add to the day, the children arrive in fancy dress, as do many of the staff!

All money raised go to the charity COPE which caters for homeless people. It is without doubt the day that the children look forward to most in the year. This year, we raised €1400 in two hours!



St Paul's Secondary School

We have had a term filled with memorable events and achievements in St Paul's Secondary School. Beginning with our Mass to celebrate the opening of the school year, to our cast of Matilda (TY 2024-25) receiving their AIMS award, and celebrations for World Mental Health Day, Mentoring Week, Maths Week, Spooktacular Events, Stand-Up Week, College Awareness Week, Science Week, and the TeamHope Shoebox Appeal – there has been something for everyone to enjoy in St Paul's. We look forward to our Christmas Trade-Fair, Christmas Jumper Day and our annual service before the end of 2025!



We gathered as a school community to honour our beloved, Ms Troy, before her retirement at Halloween.



At student assemblies, students took the

opportunity to highlight some of their memories and thank Ms Troy for all her work in St Paul's. Having spent the past 32 years in St Paul's, firstly as a teacher of French and Mathematics, appointed to the role of year-head in 1998, serving as Deputy Principal from 2012 to 2020 and leading the school as Principal since 2020, Geraldine has been instrumental in the growth of our school and leading us through the many changes in education over the past three decades. We thank her for her dedication, leadership and the indelible mark she has left on St Paul's. Geraldine has certainly embodied Genevieve Dupuis' wish that we 'do our best for the children'. Congratulations, Geraldine, on your well-deserved retirement, we hope the days ahead are filled with relaxation, laughter, and all the adventures you didn't have time for while you were taking care of all of us in St Paul's.



St. Joseph's Patrician College 'The Bish'



Student Event

Each year, the school, under the guidance of our Headstrong Committee, who promote positive mental health in our school, organises Trick or Treat for Templestreet. The Headstrong Committee is a voluntary group of students who engage in a range of activities throughout the year to promote positivity and infuse joy into school-life.

This particular event is a fantastic, whole school event where staff and students alike, dress up on the last day of term before the Halloween break and raise funds for Templestreet Children's Hospital.

We have been doing this for a few years and it has really grown over time. From 1st year to 6th years, our students have engaged with this thoroughly and it has brought a lot of colour, laughter and enjoyment to our school which encompasses our living ethos. From dinosaurs to pop singers, bananas in pyjamas and even girls from a neighbouring school (we are an all-boys school), we have had a lot of laughs thanks to this event.



Annual Bish Bash Talent Show



The annual Bish Bash Talent Show lit up the BlackBox Theatre this year with one of its most diverse and entertaining line-ups to date. Students from across every year group stepped forward to showcase their talents, filling the evening with music, laughter, and unforgettable performances. The stage played host to singers, bands, pianists, and comedy acts, with an especially memorable appearance from our hurlers and our oarsmen, who proved that their skills extend well beyond the pitch and the river. Whether delivering sharp one-liners or performing slick musical numbers, every act brought something unique to the night.

Guiding the audience through the show with humour and energy were our excellent presenters, Colm Davoren and Eoin Walsh. Their chemistry and quick wit kept the atmosphere lively and ensured the transitions between acts ran seamlessly. After a fiercely competitive evening, the judges and audience reached their final decision:

- 3rd Place: Oliver Molloy, whose performance impressed with its technical skill and originality.
- 2nd Place: Oasish, the much-loved student tribute band whose set electrified the room. The band consisted of James O' Connor, Luke Scarry, Imadey Osayimwen and James Higgins.
- 1st Place: Luke Kenny, whose standout act earned a roaring ovation and the top spot on the night.

This year's Bish Bash not only highlighted the incredible talent within the school but also the spirit of community and fun that defines the event and our school reflecting our motto to 'Love God, Work Hard and Take Care of One Another'. Congratulations to all who took part, and especially to our winners. The bar has been set high for next year!



Dominican College Muckross Park

Celebrating 125 Years



We began our school year with a very special Mass to mark an important milestone: the 125th anniversary of Muckross. The theme for the celebration was “*With Roots We Rise*”, reminding us of the history and traditions of our school that continue to inspire us.

The Mass was led by Fr. David Barrins OP, a Dominican priest, which made the celebration all the more meaningful.

During the Mass, we reflected on what life was like in Muckross in years gone by. A school roll book from the past was presented as a gift, remembering the generations of students who also heard a reflection on Muckross life from have walked through the halls of Muckross. We Mary Shinnick, a 6th Year student, who wore the traditional Muckross jacket—giving another insight into the school’s history.



In his sermon, Fr. Barrins spoke warmly about the vision of the Dominican Sisters who founded Muckross. He reminded us that the Sisters envisioned a future where women could pursue any path they wished. He shared that Muckross was built on the belief that education should empower young women to become anything they aspire to be. His words encouraged us to appreciate our roots and make the most of the opportunities granted to us today. The music for the Mass was led beautifully by the Sixth Year Choir, accompanied by our pianist, Will, and conducted by Ms. Cunningham. The music added a special sense of joy and celebration to the occasion.

Another highlight of the Mass was the commissioning of our 17 new Eucharistic Ministers.

Lourdes Pilgrimage

This year we continued the tradition of sending five 6th Year students to aid the sick and elderly pilgrims on the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from the 4th–9th of September. Thanks to **Cai Freaney, Elaine Hickey, Sinéad McNally, Louisa Fitzsimons, and Ellen O’Driscoll** who were selected to represent Muckross on this year’s pilgrimage. When the girls returned home, they gave a wonderful presentation to the whole school, sharing their experiences and the highlights of their time in Lourdes. A special thank you goes to **Ms. McKenna** who accompanied the girls and had been preparing and working with them since February to ensure the success of this year’s trip.



Lourdes Pilgrimage Reflection By Cai Freaney, 6th Year

Our journey to Lourdes was truly an unforgettable experience. Lourdes is a place renowned for both physical and spiritual healing, where many pilgrims seek peace and strength in the healing waters of the baths and at its many sacred sites. The week was filled with opportunities to deepen our faith, support pilgrims seeking comfort and companionship, strengthen our friendships with one another, and engage in acts of compassion and service. Assisting the pilgrims throughout the week allowed us to form bonds of genuine friendship, leaving a lasting impact on both ourselves and those we were privileged to help.

Through prayer, song, and shared stories, we connected on a deep emotional level with the sick pilgrims. A highlight for all of us was the Saturday night “Sing-Along,” which brought together the pilgrims and the Blue Shirts (school group volunteers). The evening was filled with dancing to ABBA, karaoke, laughter, and treats, creating memories we will cherish forever.

The main theme of this year’s pilgrimage was *Hope*. Each evening during prayers we reflected on its importance, learning how hope strengthens us to persevere through challenges and fosters resilience.

Personally, I had an amazing time, and the five of us all hope to return to Lourdes again one day.



Ramsgrange Community School

Students Win Award at National SciFest Competition



Two 5th Year Ramsgrange Community School students, Katie Franklin and Colleen Waters, recently participated in the 2025 SciFest competition.

SciFest aims to spark a passion for science, technology, engineering, and maths by engaging students in hands-on, collaborative, inquiry-driven learning. It offers a platform for second-level students at local and regional levels to showcase and communicate their scientific projects.

Taking part in SciFest supports students in building interest and excitement around STEM. It enables them to explore areas of the subject that genuinely inspire them, while deepening their understanding through active investigation. Participation also helps students develop the essential skills needed to address future global challenges—such as ensuring food, water, and energy security, driving sustainable economic growth, and improving healthcare and infrastructure.

This year's competition had over 16,000 students compete with the RCS group submitting their project, *Cries til its chronic: An investigation into the potential gender bias in the diagnosis of chronic pain in Ireland*.

Under the guidance of their science teacher, Ms. Alanna Roche, the girls began their research in TY and competed at the BT Young Scientist Competition in the RDS last January 2025, where they won a display award for their research. They were strongly encouraged and eager to continue their research and following on from this, in April 2025, they competed in SETU Carlow at the regional SciFest competition where they won best project award. This achievement secured them a place in the SciFest National Final in Marino Conference Centre in Dublin in November 2025. Competing in this stage of the competition were 51 students spanning across 35 different projects.

As part of the competition, the girls competed in the SciFest STEM Outreach Video award which was an opportunity for the SciFest National Finalists to communicate their findings via a two-minute video as well as a chance for the competitors to show off their communication skills within their scientific research.

The girls created their video and shared it online where they received votes from the public. At the final they endured three rounds of judging from nine judges across a variety of different scientific areas. It was a tightly contested contest with the girls holding tight at the top end of the leaderboard throughout the duration of the voting process and securing top position when the voting closed and deservedly winning the award.

The SciFest competition concludes the journey for this project for the girls who over the past year achieved great notoriety and learnings as well as raising important awareness on the topic of chronic pain. The extensive awards won by the girls over the course of their journey were also reflective of their extremely diligent and dedicated hard work.

International Day of the Girl with HerMoves Workshop

Ramsgrange Community School students celebrated International Day of the Girl by taking part in the Her Moves Glow in the Dark UV Workshop. The workshop which was run in conjunction with the Her Moves programme as well as Sports Active Wexford. The local sporting partnership aims to increase physical activity in the general population, in particular amongst specific target groups, one of which being teenage girls. The programme was open to all secondary schools in the county and all girls in participating schools were invited to take part.

The aim of the roadshow was to provide teenage girls in Wexford an opportunity to get active in a fun, social and non-judgmental environment through movement under UV lights and utilising glow in the dark equipment. On the day, the Ramsgrange Community School girls were put through their paces in UV martial arts and self defense which was facilitated by John Phillips from *Cho's Tae Kwan Do Wexford*.

Throughout the course of the day over 160 girls from 1st to 6th year took part in the workshop. The students also engaged in conversations with their PE teachers as well as the Wexford Sports Active facilitators on participation levels of teenage girls in physical activity, barriers to this participation as well as strategies to overcome these barriers.

All in all, it was a fantastic day for all involved with a focus on being physically active in a fun and social manner.



Dominican College Griffith Avenue

3rd Year CSPE Action Projects

The 3rd Year CSPE classes have demonstrated outstanding pastoral, civic, and community values through their commitment to their Action Projects this year. One class organised a fundraiser in support of Dogs Trust, showing compassion, empathy, and a strong awareness of animal welfare issues. Another class planned and coordinated Student Council elections for the 1st Year students. By guiding younger students through the election process, they helped to promote active participation and foster a culture where all students feel represented. A third class undertook a beach clean-up, demonstrating environmental responsibility and a dedication to protecting local natural spaces. Their work not only improved the local environment but also raised awareness of the impact that collective action can have on sustainability.



Junior Cycle Retreat Days

On the 18th and 19th of November, our First and Second Year students were lucky enough to spend the day in the hall on their retreat. They had guest speakers, Emma and Conor, who did all sorts of fun games and activities that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. They also did the *In November We Remember* activity, remembering our loved ones who are no longer with us. The atmosphere was light and inclusive, and it was a great day.



Student Spotlight

Our Student Spotlight celebrates the outstanding achievements and growth of our students. Featuring accomplishments both inside and outside the classroom, the display highlights academic excellence, artistic creativity, athletic success, and acts of leadership. By showcasing these moments, we aim to inspire pride within our school community and motivate all students to strive for their personal best. The Student Spotlight serves as a vibrant reminder that every student has unique strengths worth sharing and celebrating.



St Louis Dundalk

We are thrilled to announce Carla McDonnell a 5th Year Student is the World Challenge Winner at WYEC

The NFTE World Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (WYEC) is a signature global event that brings together student entrepreneurs from around the globe. Over the course of three days, students participate in a series of private events focused on learning, coaching, and global connection - that culminate in a public showcase and final pitch competition. WYEC is a celebration of innovation, cross-cultural collaboration, and youth-led business leadership on a global scale.

Carla represented Ireland with 'Vax Chill' - a cooling device designed to keep livestock or veterinary medicines at safe temperatures.

A huge St. Louis congratulations to Carla & her teacher, Ms. Róisín. Mallon on this phenomenal achievement! We are so proud #LouisRoar

#NFTEChallenge #ChallengeMe #PoweredByNFTE



St Benildus College

As always, St Benildus College was busy this term! We have hosted five themed weeks so far. First, we celebrated Catholic Schools Week, which allowed our students to connect with their faith and our community. Students wrote letters to a local nursing home, visited our local Catholic church and TYs held a bake sale for their charity trip to Zambia in June. History Week soon followed, with fantastic talks and displays highlighting a variety of historical moments. The highlight was the first year model making competition, which focused on learnings on Early Christian Ireland. We also had Digital Literacy Week, which promoted safe internet use and disconnecting from our personal devices. In Healthy Eating Week, students got a healthy breaktime treat and spent time learning about the benefits of a healthy diet and the importance of good food fuel. Finally, Seachtain na Gaelige brought a lot of fun, with Senior speed dating with Colaiste Íosagain and a 2nd year Gaelic Football Blitz.

Le Chéile Day

St. Benildus College celebrated Le Chéile Day on March 6th, 2025, with the theme "Spreading Kindness in Le Chéile Schools." The highlight was a Grandparents' Morning hosted by the Religion Department, where First Year students and their grandparents enjoyed coffee, treats, and live music from TY students. The event fostered community spirit and left a positive impact on everyone involved.



National Pi Maths Quiz Final

St. Benildus College students excelled in the IAMTA and Pi Quizzes, achieving remarkable results at both regional and national levels. In the IAMTA quiz, one team placed 1st regionally and advanced to the national finals, finishing just two points behind the winners. In the Pi Quiz, the third year team became national champions, marking the school's second consecutive all-Ireland victory—a testament to the students' hard work and dedication.

Visit from the Ambassador of Luxembourg

Ambassador Ensch of Luxembourg visited St Benildus' College on March 20th, 2025, as part of the Festival de la Francophonie, organised by 28 French-speaking embassies and missions in Ireland. She spoke about her diplomatic career, the importance of language learning, and shared insights about Luxembourg. Students and teachers enjoyed the visit, engaging in a lively Q&A session.

Angus Beef TY Competition

Transition Year students from St. Benildus College made it to the national final of the Angus Beef School's Competition with their project "Beefing Up Awareness." Aimed at educating peers about the origin and quality of Irish Angus beef, the project included posters, presentations, a recipe book, and even a rap. The team impressed judges at the final in Croke Park, showcasing their creativity and school spirit.

Lasallian Interschools Competition

Seven students from St. Benildus College participated in the Lasallian Competition in Castletown, Co. Laois, exploring themes of justice and community engagement. Highlighting the event was the third-place project by Harry Deally, Eoin Brotonel, and Oliver Szczepamiec, featuring a bridge symbolizing the connection between Ireland and Ukraine. The competition fostered collaboration and inspired students to build bridges of compassion and justice.

Junior GAA Team wins Dublin A Final

The St. Benildus College junior team had a successful season, starting with a strong win against Aidans in a friendly. In the group stage, they dominated Fintan's and Terenure but narrowly lost to Coláiste Eoin. After defeating Ardscoil in the Dublin semifinals, they faced local rivals Coláiste Eoin in a top class Dublin A final. They won this convincingly to reach the Leinster final. Though they put up a great fight, they ultimately fell to Naas CBS, one of the country's top teams. The school is proud of their achievements and team spirit.

Athletics Success

St. Benildus College students delivered impressive performances at the East Leinster Cross Country Finals in Phoenix Park. Conn Mc Cluskey secured 2nd place in the Junior A Boys 2500m, while Conor Pimlott and Liam O'Flaherty finished in the top 15. The Junior A team placed 2nd overall and will advance to the Leinster Finals alongside seniors Jake Mathews and Ciarán Connolly, who also achieved top finishes.

AILO

3rd year student Hayk Avetisyan from St. Benildus College participated in the All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad (AILO), where students tackle challenges such as decoding ancient languages and solving complex puzzles. After successfully completing the preliminary round in January, Hayk was invited to the national final on March 12th, where he competed alongside 104 finalists from across Ireland. The top four from the individual round will represent Ireland at the International Linguistics Olympiad in Taiwan in July 2025. Best of luck, Hayk!



Dominican College Sion Hill

The 2025-2026 school year has been exciting, busy and rewarding for all. In August we welcomed back all our wonderful students and staff and we gave a special welcome to our 90 new 1st year students. These students have settled very well, with the help of the whole school community and the fabulous 6th year CARAs they were assigned.

In September the whole school took a break from the classroom to go on our annual School Spirit Day. This provides the girls with the opportunity to bond further with each other and reflect on friendship and connection. 2nd -6th on a trip to various exciting locations such as Explorium, Hidden Valley and many more with 1st years doing an inhouse Spirit Day where they enjoyed having the school to themselves.



September also saw our 6th years were fortunate to take part in the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. This was a very spiritual and rewarding experience for them and they shared their memories and reflections on the experience at the end of our Opening School Year Mass.



The annual school open day took place at the end of September where students and teachers showcased aspects from learning and teaching, extracurricular activities and student leadership. It is wonderful to see how proud the students are of our school.



The extracurricular timetable is well and truly up and running with hockey, basketball, GAA matches and training, Athletics competitions, debating, book club, chess, cookery club, ART club, engineering and lego club all in full swing.



In October Transition Year students took a break from all their activities and workshops to celebrate their wonderful Junior Cycle results, they had a trip to the cinema followed by treats in school. We are all so proud of their wonderful achievement.



Preparations for our musical have been ongoing since August with all years involved both on stage and back stage. This year's production was the classic Oliver, which was a huge success. We welcomed the local primary schools for a matinee show and the show continued over three nights.



Finally our annual danceathon was organised and held mid-November by our active Student Committee in aid of the Gavin Glynn foundation, a charity close to our heart and a fun day was had by all.

It has been a jam packed year so far and we look forward to what the rest of the year will bring.



DLS College Waterford

Well-being Welcome

On August 29th, our school's first day back, we had a well-being welcome for all students. They were treated to some delicious, healthy snacks to keep their energy levels high. We are hoping for a fantastic year ahead, filled with learning and laughter.

Our Open Night

On September 25th, we held our open night where we showcased our school. Parents of 6th-class students were invited to meet our teachers, explore our facilities, and chat with our students.

TY Solas Run For Life

On October 10th, in support of Solas, De La Salle College went orange and blue, raising an incredible sum of €1,700.



Stride To School

We launched our Stride to School initiative on Wednesday, October 15th, in conjunction with Waterford City and County Council. Walking every Wednesday for wellbeing, sustainability, and a stronger sense of community.

School Show - Les Mis

Our annual school show took place from October 15th to 18th. This year, our students took to the stage with several outstanding performances of Les Misérables. We are immensely proud of the success of the show and of having hosted it here in the college.



Mock Election

On the week of October 20th, De La Salle became a polling station for TY & 6th Year students, who had the opportunity to research candidates and vote in a replica presidential election, giving students a great insight into the Presidential election.

Stand Up Awareness Week

During the week of November 3rd, De La Salle recognised Stand Up Awareness Week by distributing tokens of allyship to Staff and Students of the community, raising awareness and creating a welcoming environment for all members of the community.



Bí Cinealta Week

Here in De La Salle during the week of the 10th of November, we celebrated kindness and anti-bullying week by engaging in this year's theme of belonging, by running various initiatives, competitions, and workshops.



Lasallian Ethos Presentations

On the week of November 10th, our TY Students presented on the life of our founder, St. John Baptiste De La Salle, our 5 core principles, and the global Lasallian community, to

SVP Food Drive

On November 18th, the SVP Fooddrive Bus visited De La Salle to collect the various donations, which were gathered across the school community throughout the week.

Mountrath Community School

A group of Mountrath Community School senior students from 5th and 6th Year have spent the past year working closely with The Hope Foundation to raise funds for vital projects in Kolkata, India. This was Mountrath Community Schools first immersion project. The Hope Foundation supports disadvantaged communities across the city, particularly those living in the slums, by providing essential services and educational opportunities.

Through a range of fundraising activities, the group raised an impressive €16,000, which will go directly towards running key services such as a hospital, boys' and girls' residential centres, homework clubs, and crèches.

The students departed for Kolkata on October 23rd. On arrival, they visited the Hope Hospital and were given a guided tour by the hospital director, learning firsthand about the life-changing work being carried out there. Throughout the week, they also spent time with residents of the boys' and girls' centres, exchanging stories, learning about one another's hobbies, and participating in games and activities.

Another highlight of the trip was visiting the homework clubs within the slum communities, where the students were warmly welcomed with song, dance, and enthusiasm from the children who benefit from the programme. The itinerary also included cultural excursions such as the Victoria Memorial and several of Kolkata's historic temples.

To mark their final evening, the students embraced local tradition by wearing sarees and panjabis and performing a traditional Indian dance they had learned during their stay.

This initiative not only contributed essential funding to communities in need, but also offered our students an unforgettable experience of cultural immersion, service, and personal growth. The school is extremely proud of their commitment, compassion, and representation of our community abroad.

Hard of Hearing and Autism classrooms have been taking part in weekly equestrian therapy sessions at Feathersfarm Equestrian Centre, and the impact has been remarkable. Every Friday, the students travel to the farm, where they spend time feeding, grooming, caring for, and riding the horses under guided supervision.

These sessions offer far more than simply learning about animal care. The calm, structured environment of Feathers farm provides students with a space to build confidence, develop communication skills, and strengthen their emotional well-being. For many, working closely with the horses has become a highlight of their week, offering a therapeutic break from the busyness of school life.

Feeding and grooming the horses encourages responsibility, patience, and gentle interaction. Riding helps improve balance, coordination, and focus, while also giving students a sense of achievement and independence. Staff have noticed increased social engagement, improved self-expression, and greater resilience among participants.

Most importantly, the smiles and enthusiasm shown each Friday demonstrate just how meaningful this experience has become. The equestrian therapy programme continues to be a powerful example of how hands-on learning and connection with animals can support and elevate student development in truly life-enhancing ways.



St Mary's Holy Faith Secondary School, Glasnevin

St Mary's is striving towards our Gold Empathy Award, having completed our Staff Storytelling Activity and Annual Scary Mary's Walk 'n Talk Empathy Whole School Challenge. Over sixty staff paired up in different rooms during their Storytelling activity related to their Summer Holidays to share and retell each other's stories. Modelled on our TY Storytelling Module, it showed how telling another's story builds understanding and highlights the value of stepping into another's perspective and recognising the emotions that shape each person's experience. This spirit of connection continued with our annual Scary Mary's Walk 'n Talk Empathy Challenge, in which over 800 students and all staff completed over 4kms of a walk, many in costume! The fourteen-member Student Empathy Squad played a key role in the success of the event, managing PR, creating Tutor Packs including Student Reflection Sheets, and developing thoughtful conversation prompts for the walk. Now in its third year, our annual Empathy Walk continues to boost school spirit and foster a greater sense of belonging and connection among students and staff by encouraging our entire school community to listen closely and appreciate others' perspectives.



Second Years were ready for our Empathy Walk!



Our Third Year Students 'Empathy' Walk Ready!



Empathy Squad Strike a Pose! Empathy Conversation Prompts

Conversational Prompts

Q1: What are you doing for Halloween?

Q2: A food you would like to eat for the rest of your life?

Q3: List five things that you are grateful for.

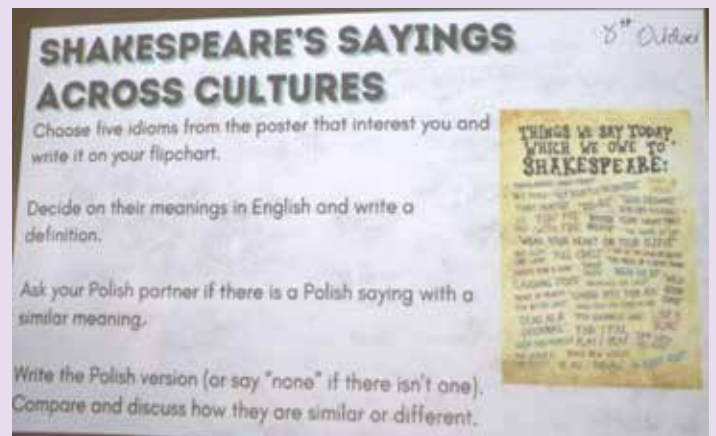
Q4: Kind deed you did for someone?

October for the whole of Culture Week

During Culture Week, St Mary's welcomed an Erasmus group of twelve students and four teachers from Poland, with the visiting teachers also engaging in job-shadowing. The group participated in collaborative activities with TY and fifth year students, including a Howth Hike and visits to the EPIC Museum, the GPO and the Botanic Gardens. They also participated in a Multicultural Food Fair, contributed to the creation and planting of a Herb Garden, and took part in selected TY modules and Senior Cycle classes. The week concluded with a traditional Irish Showcase organised by the TYs and a Polish dance performance by our guests. During the week, our students gained valuable insights into Polish culture and their education system while learning basic Polish vocabulary! Both the Erasmus group and our TY students learned how to create their own reflective 'Erasmus eBooks'.



Our Erasmus group with our SLT



Shakespeare's Sayings Across Cultures!



Our TY's with the Erasmus Group at Howth

Dominican College Taylors Hill

Launch of Pilot Leaving Certificate Study Programme for 6th Year Students

Dominican College Taylor's Hill, has introduced a pilot Leaving Certificate study programme this year, designed to equip 6th Year students with the habits, mindset, and strategies needed for success in their final year. A group of 23 students is participating in this first iteration, which blends evidence-informed research with practical tools for effective study, focus, and wellbeing.

The programme is grounded in research from cognitive psychology, neuroscience, and achievement studies, providing students with an understanding of how learning, memory, and motivation actually work. This approach helps students move away from inefficient habits and towards strategies that have been shown to improve academic performance.

A central part of the programme focuses on evidence-based study methods, including active recall, spaced repetition, and structured focus cycles. By learning how the brain encodes and retrieves information, students develop more efficient and sustainable study routines. The programme also focuses on how students can support their brain so that it can work most effectively for them with special attention given to nutrition, exercise, and sleep.

Equally important is the programme's focus on motivation, managing procrastination, developing sustained focus, and managing stress and anxiety. Drawing on findings from both educational and wider psychology, students explore practical tools for building intrinsic motivation, handling performance pressure, and staying engaged throughout the year.

The programme examines the broader requirements for success across diverse fields, and seeks to support students in developing a success-oriented mindset, with a view to seeing how these can help the students achieve their potential in the Leaving Cert and beyond.

Participation in the programme was open to 6th Year students who were willing to commit to it and who wanted to ensure that they gave their best to their studies this year. It involved the students attending two Saturday training sessions at the beginning of the school year and two further Saturday sessions later in the school year. These sessions introduced the core concepts, provided hands-on practice with study techniques, and helped students reflect on their current habits and create personalised plans for improvement.

Throughout the year, participants attend weekly in-school meetings with their facilitator, offering ongoing guidance, accountability, and support. These sessions give students the opportunity to review progress, troubleshoot difficulties, and reinforce their developing study routines. It also helps the students remain focused on best practice and feel encouraged and supported in putting these into practice on a consistent basis. The students also have one-to-one review and planning meetings with their facilitator during the year.

As part of the programme, the students are expected to share their knowledge and experience with younger students. They presented on study skills to junior year groups and acted as study mentors to the 1st Years, helping them prepare for their Christmas exams.

This is currently a pilot programme, but student feedback has been very positive. In particular, the

St. Dominic's College Cabra

Annual Sponsored Walk

On the 23rd of October 2025, St. Dominic's College Cabra held our annual sponsored walk organised by our fantastic Parents' Association (PA). A tradition stemming from long ago, it is an event that all the students of our school know of and take honour in. The money raised is used by the PA to enhance teaching and learning opportunities for all students at St. Dominic's College. Sixth Years got to walk the path one last time, and First Years were welcomed into the practice of the rich spirit of our school.

It was a cool, breezy afternoon as the year groups circled over the route through Phoenix Park, looking colourful and bright in their accessorised uniforms. A different colour is assigned to a different year, pink for the First Years, yellow for the Second Years, blue for the Third Years, red for the Transition Years, green for the Fifth Years and black for the Sixth Years. The broad colour palette made our students stand out with representation of the school, as they completed the walk for the cause of raising funds for improvement of the school and our education, learning, and environment.

At the end of the event, we were given refreshments, which is always the part that everyone looks forward to! It is always a wonderful opportunity for the whole school to come together as one, express our unity, and enjoy something as simple as a school walk.

Anum Syeda (Transition Year Student)



Scoil Pól

Scoil Pól Welcomes New principal

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Ms. Mairéad Finucane as the new Principal of Scoil Pól!

A native of Kerry, Mairéad brings with her a wealth of experience, dedication, and energy that will no doubt enrich the life of our school community.

Scoil Pól looks forward to this next chapter, and the future, under Ms. Finucane's leadership along with Mrs. Bridget Ryan and Mr. Eoin Walsh.

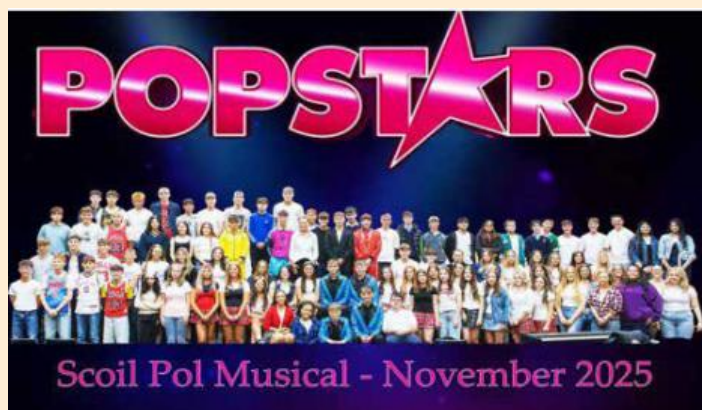


Scoil Pól's New Website

After months of tireless work and compilation, we are excited to announce the launch of our newly designed school website! This was created to give parents, students and our wider community a clearer, more user-friendly experience. The site boasts a fresh new layout, updated photos and content, and improved usability. We invite you to explore our new site and enjoy these modern exciting updates showcasing everyday life in Scoil Pól. You can view our new website here: <https://www.scoilpol.ie/>

Transition Year "Popstars – The 90s Musical"

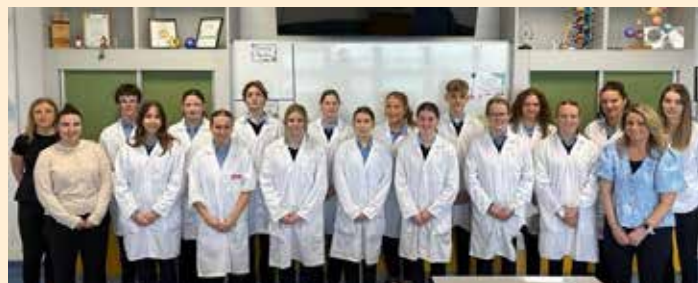
This year's much-awaited production: "Popstars – The 90s Musical" takes place from November 27th-30th and is sure to be another Scoil Pól showstopper! Our audience will be transported back in time to the decade of boy bands, girl power, and unforgettable pop hits! Packed with high-energy dance routines, hilarious comedy, and a soundtrack full of 90s chart-toppers, this show is guaranteed to have everyone singing and dancing along. Our Transition Year students and directors have been working tirelessly all year and we cannot wait to see the fruits of their labour on the main stage!



Science Week

We celebrated Science week at the beginning of November and the theme was 'Then, Today & Now – The Journey of Scientific Progress'.

From poster competitions and science quizzes to daily riddles and STEM challenges, it was a very exciting week packed with curiosity and creativity! We also welcomed primary school students from our local schools for a science-themed magic show performed by our 5th year chemistry enthusiasts. A fantastic week was had by all. Well done to the Science Department!



Equestrian Success for Scoil Pól

Our Scoil Pól Equestrian team competed in Maryville Stables, Carrigaline earlier this year. Huge congratulations to Ciara who raced home against the clock to win the 1-meter individual class! Special mention to Sophie on her first day representing Scoil Pól; to finish 4th in this class was amazing!

Well done to all our other riders that competed in the team events. A fantastic day for our school.

LCA 5 General Education Task Fundraiser

Well done to all our LCA 5 students who recently Fundraised for Milford Hospice as part of their General Education Task. They held a gymnastics fundraiser where the second year students performed their gymnastic routines for the first year students. They raised a fantastic €521.70! We were so grateful to be able to visit Milford Hospice and present the cheque to AnnMarie Hayes, who is head of fundraising at Milford Hospice. The students learned so much about the wonderful care and work of Milford Hospice. Thank you to all students, family members, and staff of Scoil Pól who supported this worthy fundraising event!



Jesus and Mary Secondary School Enniscrone

Huge congratulations to our very own Ava Hallinan, 3rd year, on being named Player of the Match in Ireland's fantastic 6-0 win over North Macedonia 🇮🇪🏆

We are so proud to see Ava shining on the international stage – an incredible achievement.

The Sligo Rovers defender was called into the Irish setup for the game vs Northern Ireland with the WU17s friendly confirmed by the FAI.

On SNA Appreciation Day we had the pleasure of expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Anne and Colleen, our wonderful SNAs. We thanked them for all the big and small acts of kindness they show each day here at JMSS. Their care, dedication, and support make an incredible difference in the lives of our students and staff.

Our Transition Year students took part in an inspiring Brilliant Mondays workshop, where they had the privilege of hearing from the wonderful Stephen Kiernan.

Stephen shared powerful stories from his book, which highlights ordinary people achieving extraordinary things. He spoke about resilience, motivation, and—most of all—rising from the ashes. Our students left feeling uplifted and inspired, with new insights on how to live with happiness and contentment.

Ms Hegarty's First Year Art group created their Halloween-themed artwork for the Kilglass Woods Halloween Walk.

They were thrilled to be part of this fantastic community initiative and was delighted for everyone to see their spooky, creative designs lighting up the woods.

Huge congratulations to Maureen Igoe, student of our QQI Pastry, Baking & Dessert course, who was crowned Ireland's Brown Bread Baker at this year's National Ploughing Championships. We are beyond proud of her incredible talent and hard work. Maureen is an inspiration to all of us at JMSS.



Stand Up Awareness Week 2025 – “Bí Cineálta / Be Kind”

Our school was proud to take part in Stand Up Awareness Week, celebrating inclusion, empathy, and kindness. Our students and staff wore the colours of the Pride flag to show support for LGBTQ+ students and to stand together against homophobic bullying. 🏳️‍🌈 By living the message of “Bí Cineálta” (Be Kind), we are helping to create a school where everyone feels safe, valued, and respected. This is another important step in promoting the

government's new “Bí Cineálta” anti-bullying policy and building a culture of compassion in our school community.

The first official meeting of our Student Council took place in October at the Ocean Sands Hotel. Following the meeting and the election of roles within the Council, students enjoyed some well-deserved refreshments together. 🍷🍰

A huge well done and thank you to all 15 members for their enthusiasm and commitment. We wish our Student Council a wonderful and successful year ahead.



Proud Moment Alert

At the University of Limerick Open Day our students were delighted to be welcomed by one of our very own past pupils, Dr. Meave Upton, now a lecturer at the University. We are incredibly proud of our past pupils and their achievements. It's always inspiring to see where their journeys take them — and even more special when they come full circle to inspire the next generation.

Our senior students took part in a transformative Wellbeing Retreat led by the incredible Throwfire team. The experience offered a meaningful opportunity to pause, reflect, and engage in conversations about wellbeing, resilience, and personal growth. Through a range of thoughtful activities and guided discussions, students gained new perspectives and took valuable time to focus on their own development — both individually and as a cohort.

Elma Walsh visited our school to speak to our senior students about the life of her son, Donal, and to share his inspiring message of living life to the full. Her words reminded our students of the power of positivity, resilience, and gratitude. We were truly grateful for her time, her openness, and the lasting impact her message will have on our school community.



St. Michaels Holy Faith Secondary School, Finglas

This has been a great year for sports here in St. Michaels Holy Faith. Our Senior Camogie Team made it all the way to the quarterfinals, showing incredible determination and teamwork. Our Junior Camogie Team has made it through to the semi-finals, with skill and spirit. Our Gaelic Team has also continued their strong run, successfully making it through to the next round. The dedication, resilience, and passion shown by all our players have been truly inspiring. Go St. Michaels!



A highlight of the year was the St. Michael's Spotlight Hour Talent Show, which brought the whole school community together in a spirit of fun, creativity, and nostalgia. This year's theme celebrated the vibrant energy of the 1960s, and our talented students truly rose to the occasion with colourful costumes, impressive choreography, and wonderful musical choices. The talent show took place over the course of two memorable nights; each one filled with excitement and applause. The variety of acts showcased the incredible range of ability within our school—from actors and singers to dancers, African drummers, and our outstanding choir.



Our Transition Year students have had a jampacked year this far! The recent reforms in the transition year statement have meant that students are taking part in new modules such as Localise. This is a volunteering programme which promotes community engagement whilst providing students with an opportunity for different pathways into college. Localise students volunteered in a local nursing home and brought gifts for both staff and the residents. It was a brilliant day and put smiles on a lot of people faces.



Student voice and civic engagement is a critical element of life in St. Michaels Holy Faith. One of our third classes held a mock Presidential election today to help raise awareness about voting and the important responsibilities of the President. The class fully embraced the experience, taking on roles, researching candidates, and engaging in thoughtful discussion before casting their votes. Meanwhile, our wonderful TY students proudly took part in their first debate of this year's Concern Debates Competition. They delivered strong, well-researched arguments and showed great confidence for a first round, demonstrating real teamwork and enthusiasm. Both events offered valuable opportunities for students to develop their voices and deepen their understanding of civic engagement.



Science and Maths Week took place recently, giving students a fantastic chance to explore new ideas through hands-on activities and problem-solving challenges. Science Week featured a variety of engaging tasks, and we congratulate all who took part, with special recognition for the winners of the Science Quiz and Riddle of the Day. The momentum carried into Maths Week, where students enjoyed maths bingo, quizzes, and a selection of fun, interactive games. Well done to everyone who got involved and helped make both weeks such a success.

Our Lady's School, Terenure

The 2025–2026 school year at Our Lady's School has begun with tremendous energy, enthusiasm, and faith-filled activity. From academic excellence and charitable initiatives to spiritual growth and student leadership, the first term has truly embodied the *Le Chéile* spirit of community, compassion, and learning.

We began the year with our Opening School Mass, beautifully organised by our L5 students in collaboration with the Religion and Music Departments. This uplifting celebration set a reflective and hopeful tone for the months ahead. During the Mass, four sixth-year students became Eucharistic Ministers, and the sense of faith and belonging was felt across the whole community.

Our Le Chéile Group, newly formed this term, has played a central role in nurturing the school's spiritual life. With over fifteen committed Fifth Year students, the group has worked tirelessly to "put God back into the picture." Daily Morning Prayers and weekly Meditation sessions have been warmly received by students, providing space for calm, reflection, and gratitude in the school day. The group also created a sacred space dedicated to Saint Carlo Acutis, celebrating his canonisation and inspiring students to live their faith with joy in a modern world.

The Le Chéile members have also supported the Join In initiative, which encourages inclusion and friendship at lunchtime every Tuesday. In addition, the group attended a thought-provoking presentation on the environment, led by past pupil Róisín Pye, who now works with Trócaire. This presentation succeeded in connecting faith with care for creation and social responsibility.

Throughout the term, our students have continued to shine in leadership, creativity, and service.

The Leadership team led a wonderfully successful Open Day, where students of all ages welcomed prospective families and showcased the vibrant learning and community life at OLS. Our Fright Night fundraiser, organised by the Fourth and Fifth Year Kenya group, brought joy and excitement to First Years while raising vital funds for educational supplies in Nakuru.



Charity and justice remain at the heart of school life. Our GOAL Jersey Day raised an incredible €2,086 in solidarity with communities in Gaza, and the spirit of generosity could be felt throughout the school. Similarly, Friendship Week and Reading Week encouraged creativity, connection, and inclusion, reminding everyone of the importance of kindness and imagination.

Student achievement has flourished across many areas. Caoimhe O'Donoghue represented Leinster in hockey at the Interprovincial Tournament, while Ruby Farrelly competed at the All-Ireland Schools Athletics Championships. Our camogie, hockey, and basketball teams all began their seasons with outstanding performances, displaying teamwork, dedication, and school pride.



The Transition Year and LCA classes have had a busy and enriching start, visiting the Butlers Chocolate Factory, exploring Dublin on Development Day, and hosting a wonderful Afternoon Tea as part of their Hotel, Catering and Tourism coursework. The introduction of 1:1 Chromebooks for TY and LCA students marks an exciting step forward in digital learning.

We were delighted to celebrate our founding order, the Religious of Christian Education on Friday 14th November with a memorable and meaningful ceremony centred on the theme 'Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds'

Matthew 5:16 (NIV). We reflected on the inspiring contribution of our Sisters to our educational journey so far this term and look forward to meeting them again at our Christmas ceremony.



St. Joseph of Cluny

FIGHTING THE DARK WITH LOVE

With a world at war with itself, it is important to remember hope, love, giving, and kindness will always exist. Our school wanted to help bring light to our community. Light will always drive out darkness. Fighting darkness is not just about giving money, but giving time, increasing awareness, improving education, and ultimately, creating hope.

This term our students have worked tirelessly to create opportunities, to give, to have fun, to be creative, and most of all, bring joy to those who need it. These actions clearly reflect the Cluny ethos of personal responsibility and inclusivity.



It began in September with the Bewley's Coffee Morning in aid of Blackrock Hospice raising €2500, followed swiftly by a Breast Cancer Coffee Morning (the 6th yr charity) in October raising €900. Hot on the heels of these two events the 5th and 6th years held a sleep out in aid of Focus Ireland 'Shine a Light' campaign, fundraising over €2263. Our Student Council organised a mental well-being day another raising €550 for 'Aware'.



Our TY continue their relationship with Aobhinn's Pink Tie doing a bake sale raising €225. We were also able to donate a number of period products to the Hygiene Bank. They also gave their time in bag-packing in Dunnes to raise funds for Saint Vincent de Paul.

In November the entire school got involved in donating Shoeboxes for the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal and we smashed last years total! Our little elves did not stop! Interspersed with all of these events were our 3rd years who used their CSPE Action Projects to run two cake sales for 'Rise against Hunger' (€300) and the Irish Cancer Society.



We endeavour to create a school where our students' wellbeing is nurtured in a caring and affirming way and where relationships are characterised by respect and inclusivity and a sense of personal responsibility. Our inclusivity has been taken up a notch this year by the very welcome addition of boys to Cluny, the same inclusivity that we see in our charity work has ensured that the boys have received a very warm welcome. This term marked a historic moment for St. Joseph of Cluny, as we welcomed the first cohort of male students into our community. It was a change many had anticipated with curiosity, and as the term concludes, the verdict is clear: the transition has been a resounding success! The introduction of boys has seamlessly enriched the school community. The new students have quickly found their footing, bringing fresh perspectives and energy to classroom discussions.

Ms Beamish



New Cross College

6 New Cross College students spent a week in a school in Sicily in September as part of an Erasmus project they had been working on with students from 5 other countries.

They were accompanied on the trip by 3 teachers from the school.

The project title was called *Smart Solutions*



Macie Duffy O Connor a talented young second year who recently won a Silver Medal in the European U15 Boxing Championship in Montenegro representing Ireland.



Well done to Anwasha Bhar who got 9 Distinctions out of 9 subjects in her Junior Cycle

Congratulations to our junior and senior debaters who took part in a debate event held in DCU as part of their Access Programme. All participants showed outstanding effort and adaptability, debating a range of topics with very little time to prepare. Out of six available spots in the final, two were earned by our teams — a fantastic achievement! A special mention also goes to Jessica Davoren, who was awarded Best Speaker of the Day.



New Cross College TY students trained as Lift Facilitators this term and have worked with spreading the Lift message working with a cohort of 2nd year students. They hosted roundtables on the themes of listening positive attitude and respect.

Hearing about LIFT Irelands vision to bring this initiative to all primary schools our TY's wanted to pay it forward and got planning a school fundraiser. They created pumpkin posies in their horticulture class for Halloween and sold them to school staff raising over 200 euro to support the vision to take LIFT to the primary school sector.

Well done to all involved New Cross students have plans for more fundraising in the new year.



Le Chéile Secondary School Tyrrelstown

We Mark Ten Years Together with a Celebration of Faith, Community, and Hope



On Friday, 26 September 2025, Le Chéile Secondary School brought its 10th-anniversary celebrations to a close with a joyful Feast Day liturgy - a moment that gathered together the people, memories, and mission that have shaped the school's first decade. The celebration followed a year of giving thanks which included the privilege of leading the televised RTÉ Sunday Mass on 6 April, when the school community shared its story of "God is Love, Love is Here" with a national audience.

The Feast Day Mass, celebrated by new parish priest Fr Brendan Madden, welcomed a special gathering of guests who have been woven into the school's story since its foundation. Among them were founding principal Dr Áine Moran and current principal Ms Leona Harrington, who served as founding deputy principal before taking up her present role. Both were warmly acknowledged for their vision and leadership in establishing a school where welcome, wisdom, and witness could take root and flourish. Representatives of the Le Chéile Schools Trust, past and present members of the Board of Management, and former staff joined the community for a day marked by gratitude and reflection.

Throughout the liturgy, students and staff revisited the values that have shaped the school's identity. Drawing on the imagery of seed and growth from the Communion Reflection - "We plant seeds that one day will grow" - the school affirmed its belief that small things matter, that hope is cultivated daily, and that each person is called to grow where they are planted. This theme echoed the words shared in one of the addresses: "In truth, there is only one way to measure the magic of this place: measure in love."

A poignant moment came when representatives from the school's six Houses processed with memory sheets prepared for a time capsule, accompanied by fingerprint cherry blossom prints and yearbooks capturing the friendships and achievements of the first decade. These

symbolic offerings reflected the deep sense of belonging that has characterised life in Le Chéile since 2014.

As is tradition, the Feast Day also included the Angel Investiture, where Second Years pledged to guide and support incoming First Years - a ritual that encapsulates the school's belief that "we are all teachers, we are all learners, always." The Spirit of Le Chéile Award was presented to Sixth Year student Eoghan Connolly, honouring a young person who embodies the school's ethos.

The celebrations concluded with the launch of the school's new three-year Strategic Plan (2025-2028), introduced by representatives of students, staff, parents, and the Board. The plan sets out a hopeful and ambitious vision for the years ahead, ensuring the school continues to serve as "a beacon of welcome, wisdom, witness, excellence in education, and faith rooted in love." As the community steps into its second decade, it does so with renewed purpose - strengthened by the foundations laid in its first ten years and confident in its mission as a Catholic school for the 21st century. In the words shared on the day, Le Chéile moves forward "sharing our good news story" and living its Catholicity through unity in diversity, nurturing a community where all are welcome, every person belongs and every voice is valued.



Maryfield College

Michelle and Hannah Enjoy International Badminton Success

Well done to Michelle Shocan, who won the Lithuanian Junior Badminton International in singles. Michelle also got a bronze medal in doubles with her sister, Hannah.



Stand Up Week

November 3rd to 7th marked our Stand Up Week. We organised a variety of events, including line dancing, a guest speaker from Shout Out, tutor presentations and rainbow baking. The themes were celebrating inclusion and kindness and standing up for each other.



The Witches Walk is Back! €6,500 Raised For Children of Gaza Appeal

Maryfield College 80th Anniversary – Witches Walk for UNICEF Children of Gaza Appeal – Here is a collection of photos from the event. The school raised €6500 for this appeal and wish to thank every single sponsor for their generosity. Thank you to the 6th Year Prefects and their Co-ordinator Ms Farrelly as well as all the staff that made this event possible.



Lourdes

Volunteering with the Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes was an amazing and unforgettable experience. As students we decide to put our self's forward for this experience with a sense of curiosity and a feeling of wanting to help our community however what we left with was so much more than we could have ever expected. We left with a full heart and an understanding of the importance of faith in our lives and unforgettable memories.

Ariana Silvestre Places Fourth In Leinster Combined Events Athletics Championships

Well done to Ariana, who will now represent Maryfield at the All Ireland Combined Events Athletics Championships.

Maryfield Hosts Active School Flag Cluster Day 2025

On the 2nd of October 2025, the Active Schools Team at Maryfield College hosted ASF Cluster Day. We were joined by Coláiste Bride and Belmayne ETSS. The event took place in our school library, sports hall and also included an outdoor wellbeing walkway.

Maryfield Competes in Its First Chess Tournament

On 26th September 2025, eight Maryfield College students of 3rd and 4th Year took part in a chess tournament at St. Andrew's College in Booterstown. This tournament featured nearly 80 teams (each with four students) from over 30 schools, including both beginners and experienced players. Over the course of the day, each student played five games of chess, accumulating points for their team with each victory. The event was a great success and a fun day out for students and teachers alike, marking the first time that Maryfield College has entered a chess tournament, but certainly not the last! Accompanied by Mr. Kirwan and Ms. Norling, the students representing Maryfield College at this event were: Alannah O'Farrell (4K), Annmariya Shajeev (3R), Sarah Farrelly McKeon (3K), Lauren Rouse (3R), Aoife Carrick (3K), Jing Ting Hong (3K), Elaine Gao (3R), and Grace Horan (3K). Congratulations to both teams on scoring 6.5 points.



Jesus and Mary Secondary School Gortnor Abbey

Maths Week 2025 at Gortnor Abbey :A Week of Creativity ,Challenge and Celebration

Maths Week 2025 brought a fantastic buzz of energy, fun, and friendly competition to Gortnor Abbey, with students across all year groups embracing a wide range of activities designed to make mathematics engaging, collaborative, and enjoyable.



A highlight for our junior students was the **Marshmallow Tower Challenge**, expertly organised by two of our TY students. First and Second Year groups worked in teams to design and build the tallest possible tower using only spaghetti and marshmallows. The atmosphere was electric—full of laughter, problem-solving and plenty of competitive spirit. Students practiced key skills such as teamwork, planning, estimation, measurement, and structural reasoning, all while having enormous fun. Prizes and certificates were awarded to the teams who engineered the tallest and most stable towers, adding an extra layer of excitement to the event.



Our 2nd, TY and 5th year students were also delighted to participate in the IMTA's online Maths Quiz, the Maggie

Gough competition. The quiz drew an impressive national participation of 23,200 students. Remarkably, one of our own students Oliver Jackson achieved a perfect score, placing him among only ninety participants nationwide to do so—a truly outstanding accomplishment and a credit to his dedication and ability.

In addition, several of our students attended online Maths seminars in collaboration with other schools, giving them the opportunity to explore advanced topics, hear from expert speakers, and connect with peers who share a passion for the subject.



Overall, Maths Week 2025 was both highly entertaining and deeply rewarding. The events highlighted the creativity, curiosity, and talent of our students, while showcasing how mathematics can be both challenging and great fun. We look forward to building on this success again next year.



St. Angela's School Waterford

We recently held "Go Orange Day" for Solas Cancer Support Centre. The Solas Cancer Support Centre is one of the finest cancer support services in the country providing quality supports to the people of Waterford and the Southeast. We were delighted to have been chosen by Beat FM, local radio to win the Beat Fleet party to celebrate the day. A fantastic day was had by everyone for a great cause.

Non Sibi Sed Cunctis – Not For Self But For All



Our new outdoor assembly area is now open and was recently used by our 2nd Years, it is a great addition to the school.



Thank you to our whole school community for supporting our recent "Fill a bus food appeal", it was a great success. Some of our TY students continued their support by sorting the food donations for Waterford Food Bank. A fantastic effort which was greatly appreciated.

Some fantastic photos of our Leaving Cert classes doing their Geography field work recently in beautiful Tramore !



Our students had great success recently in a variety of sports well done to all involved, it is wonderful to see so many getting involved in extracurricular activities.



Laurel Hill Coláiste FCJ

Laurel Hill Coláiste FCJ was founded in 1935 and it is the longest established Gaelcholáiste in the Limerick region. It proudly marked those 90 years of delivering excellence in education through the medium of Irish with a number of special events in the first week of November. These events showcased the school's strong community values and the promotion of the Irish language and culture that have defined the school for nearly a century. All the current students and staff members received a commemorative pin and prayer (picture attached of commemorative pin and of 4 TY students who prepared 400 gift bags for students and teachers - Tilly Mordan, Doireann Ní Chuignigh, Cailín Ní Chearúil, Aimee Cáit Ní Ghríofa) and a prayer service was held in the school led by Sr Geraldine Lennon FCJ on the 4th November that included a reflection on the core values of the school and what the students felt was key to their experience in the school. The recurring words were compánachas, fáilte, cairdeas, cineáltas, le chéile, cultúr and these were creatively represented in art work that was displayed at further events.

On Wednesday 5th November the Laurel Hill Coláiste FCJ students took the Crescent Shopping Centre over with their Flash Mob Dance with the help of Zumba instructor Darren Nash. The TY Gníomhachtaí Soisialta na hIrdirdbhliana (GSI) class coordinated this whole school event with dance lessons in the school's halla spóirt and some singing lessons too! The girls danced and sang to the tune of YMCA, a song of their own words on the Cairdeas, Compánachas, Éiteas, Le Chéile agus Gaeilge amongst some areas in their '90bl ag fás' song. A fantastic afternoon was had by the whole school, the FCJs who were in attendance and the wider community of Limerick.



The celebrations did not stop there and the final event of the week was a mass of thanksgiving and celebration held in the school chapel on Saturday 8th November. This special mass was celebrated by Bishop of Limerick, Brendan Leahy, Fr Chris O Donnell PP Kilmallock, and Fr Derek Leonard Parish Administrator St Joseph's parish Limerick. In attendance were invited guests including the Mayor of Limerick Mr John Moran, Senator Maria Byrne, representatives of the Board of Management, the Parents's Council, Laurel Hill Secondary School FCJ, the FCJ order, Mary Fleming from Le Chéile Schools Trust, Mary I and past pupils going right back to 1957. This was followed by afternoon tea in the D'Houet Hall named after

the foundress of the FCJ order Marie Madeleine D'Houet where many memories were shared and enjoyed amongst the alumni, many reconnecting with school friends, former teachers and members of the FCJ Order.

A warm welcome was issued to Sr Patrica Binchy FCJ, the last FCJ principal of the school who has recently been appointed as General Superior of the FCJ order. Mr Ciarán Mc Mahon Chairperson Board of Management formally opened the afternoon with a welcome to all invited guests and past pupils encouraging them to share in this opportunity to reflect on their experiences of life in the Coláiste and how impactful for them as so many had returned to join in the celebrations. A warm welcome was issued to Sr Patrica Binchy FCJ, the last FCJ principal of the school who has recently been appointed as General Superior of the FCJ order who also gave her recollections of the Coláiste and her time as principal.

The celebrations were concluded with a key note speech from current principal Úna Bn Uí Ghríofa using the words of Marie Madeleine D'Houet as the cornerstone of the work happening in the school - 'Good example does much good' She outlined how the FCJ ethos and philosophy of education makes sure our small school had and continues to have a far stretching influence. Courage and confidence are key to the story of our small school and it starts when you look at the story of Marie Madeleine – a woman in revolutionary France who set up the FCJ Order with a can do attitude. Her vision and courage predates the feminist movement and was the lived philosophy of her words - **Let us make good use of our time on this earth. Let us do all the good we can while we can** Our aging building has not stalled the excellence, the Department of Education's drive for bigger and bigger schools has not stopped our courage and confidence in achieving excellence, advancing technology has not hindered our journey of excellence – in fact the opposite - we have embraced these challenges with courage and confidence placing the FCJ vision of an Irish medium school at the centre of our decision making. The care, companionship, culture and curriculum all merge to ensure we continue to build a school that has an important story to tell in the educational landscape of Limerick. *Ár scoil bheag le croí mór.* We will face future challenges with the welcome, wisdom and witness of the Le Chéile Schools Trust and the courage, conviction, confidence and companionship of the FCJs. We will continue as Marie Madeleine D'Houet guided others - 'to teach the children with all kindness and gentleness'.

A digital archive of memories was compiled with the help of radio personality Will Leahy, as alumni present on the day shared their recollections and anecdotes of times gone by in the Coláiste. The welcome experienced by all, the wisdom shared and the witness to the core FCJ values as celebrated in the mass of thanksgiving ensured this was a wonderful celebratory occasion that was a tribute to the generations of students, teachers and families who have contributed to the schools' rich history and continue to contribute to its vibrant future.

Santa Sabina Sutton

Celebrating Achievements and Events

Camino

Thirteen of our 6th year students travelled to Spain in early October to complete a section of the French Camino. They walked 100km over four days ending in Santiago, an incredible achievement. They represented the school so well throughout the trip, always friendly and positive towards everyone they met, even when the days were long and tiring. The students undertook this challenge as part of the requirements to achieve their Gold Gaisce Award - the highest level of this award, presented by the President of Ireland.

As a group, they decided to use this walking challenge as an opportunity to fundraise for two Irish charities: Parkinson's Ireland and The Irish Cancer Society. In the end, they raised over €5,500 for these charities - an amazing amount that will support research and treatment for these illnesses.

We are so proud of the girls. What a huge accomplishment at such a young age!

Faith Group

Last December, Ms Forde and Mr Beirne established a faith group in Santa Sabina. Meeting every Thursday during lunch, the group offers students a welcoming space to deepen their faith and explore their Christian beliefs. Guided by the shared vision of the Le Chéile Charter, the group fosters a spirit of welcome, wisdom, and witness.

Each meeting includes Gospel readings, prayers, reflections, and open dialogue, providing rich opportunities for students to engage with values central to our school's ethos, such as justice, peace, forgiveness, reconciliation, truth, and responsibility. The group also marks significant moments in the liturgical calendar, celebrating events such as Advent, Lent, Easter, the Feast of the Annunciation, and devotion to Our Lady during May. Last May, the group gathered for a lunchtime picnic at the newly refurbished grotto, celebrating the sense of community they had built together. The Faith Group continues to grow as a place of friendship, reflection, and shared belief within our school community.

St. Anne's Cross Country Schools Race Report 2025

Well done to all Santa Sabina students who participated in the St. Anne's Cross Country Meeting on Thursday, 13th November 2025. We had some very strong performances on the day!

Our Minor Year Team of Amy May O' Neill, Robyn McKeon, Isabelle McDonnell, Holly Coleman, Molly Lynch, Penny Finn, Carley Duffy and Aisling Nugent all ran impressively. Amy May O' Neill finished in 3rd position, bringing home the individual bronze medal for Santa Sabina.

Our Junior Team of Sorcha McDonagh, Carragh Nigfhloinn, Michaela Kehily, Julie Pringle and Anna Hughes also ran very well, finishing 2nd overall in the team event and securing the team silver medals. Carragh Nigfhloinn had a superb race, finishing 2nd place and earning the individual silver medal.

Our Inter Team of Kate Gill, Caralyn Moran, Ella O' Sullivan, Beth Reamsbottom, Ella Vogelaar, Anna Mulvaney, Elise Goodwin, Hannah Browne, Katie Grace

McDonnell and Roisin Dorran took 1st place in the team event, bringing home the team gold medals. Elise Goodwin finished in 3rd position and Beth Reamsbottom stormed home in 1st position. It was a fantastic performance by the Santa Sabina Inter team on the day.

Well done to all team members!

Fundraiser for Pieta

Recently, we received an acknowledgement from Pieta commending our fundraising of €1,070 from our Sunshine Walk, our school's version of the Darkness into Light walk. We are very grateful to our school community for their generosity, participation and support.

Safer Internet Day Ambassadors

We are delighted to announce that 5th year students Roisin O' Sullivan and Bridget Hickey-Montoro have been successful in their application to become Safer Internet Day Ambassadors for Santa Sabina. They will engage with a Webwise organised training programme over the next few months with the aim of leading student digital safety awareness campaigns within the school.

First Year Basketball

Our first year basketball teams took part in the annual Cleveland Basketball Tournament on 24th November. The girls did really well and had a fantastic time. Congratulations to our girls who were runners up in the Plate competition.

Science Department News

We are delighted to congratulate the four projects from Transition Year who have qualified for the 2026 Young Scientist Exhibition, and wish them the very best of luck as they represent the school in the RDS this January. The successful entrants are: Liliana Chrzan, Monika Cosgrave, Christina Bijoy, Roisin Dorran, Katie Grace McDonnell, Ornaith McNamara, Hannah Purfield, Hanya Saleem, and Imogen Manks.

Congratulations also to the Senior Science Team who represented the school excellently in the recent ISTA National Quiz: Kila Boyce, Aoibhinn Carr, Anna O'Higgins, Cassie Mullen, Marysia Dyke Jastrzebska and Aisling Treacy.



St. Colmcille's Community School

The Transition Year students had their annual trip to Russborough House on the 11th of September. It was a fantastic day where students enjoyed zip lining, camp building, archery, and an obstacle course. It was wonderful to see them working together, having fun, and embracing new challenges.

We were delighted to welcome our Spanish exchange students on the 18th September and French exchange students on the 29th September, who were hosted by our 2nd Year students. They had a busy start and enjoyed a variety of trips while here. We look forward to the weeks ahead and the many opportunities for cultural exchange and friendship that this programme will bring.

14 of our 5th year students along with staff, travelled to Lourdes on the 24th October to assist with the annual Carmelite pilgrimage. It has always been an incredible experience - one that is deeply rewarding both for our students and for those they are helping.

A number of 6th Year Geography and History students, accompanied by their teachers, set off early on the 9th October for an educational and action-packed trip to Northern Ireland. A guided tour of Belfast, including the Peace Wall, Shankill Road, and Falls Road. The Giant's Causeway in Co. Antrim, where students explored the famous basalt formations. After dinner, bowling and an overnight stay in Derry, the group continued their journey on Friday where they had a guided tour of Derry city and visited The Marble Arch Caves to study the region's limestone formations.

On the 13th October our 2nd Year students had a fantastic opportunity to travel to Biberach, Germany, as part of our Erasmus+ programme with our German partners at Dollinger-Realschule. Students spent the week exploring what healthy living and sustainability look like across the EU — a wonderful experience for all involved.

Engineering in Action - Dublin Fire Brigade visited our 6th Year Engineering class on Friday 17th October. The Leaving Certificate Engineering project this year involves designing and building a firefighting robot, so this was a brilliant opportunity to gain real-world insight into the vital work our firefighters do every day.

Our 2025 musical, *Beauty and the Beast*, showcased to a packed house on all three nights during the week of 17th October. The show was a marvelous production, from the stunning costumes and scenery to the incredible work backstage, on stage and in the band. The music, acting, and overall energy brought us a truly magical performance. The joy, smiles, and beautiful sounds from the stage brightened our week. As always, our students were amazing, so dedicated, hardworking, and committed to producing something so special. A huge thank you to everyone involved, our students, staff, Parents Association, and of course, our wonderful audiences. It was a lovely way to finish off our first half-term. We're already looking forward to next year's show.

Extra-Curricular Update

It's been a busy and successful spell for St. Colmcille's teams across a range of sports.

Soccer:

Our Minor Girls continued their winning streak with a strong Cup victory over St. Kevin's C.C., while the U15 Boys impressed in a competitive top-flight match against Oldbawn. The Junior Girls enjoyed a fantastic opening win over Rosemount, and the Junior Boys gained valuable experience in their Cup tie with Clonkeen College.

Gaelic Football:

The 2nd Years secured a Quarter-Final place after a thrilling win over Oatlands, and the Senior Boys showed great spirit in a dramatic comeback against Blackrock. The U16 Boys earned a solid victory over Mac Daras, while the Senior Girls and U16 Girls both delivered excellent performances in their respective fixtures.

Basketball:

It was a standout period for our U16 and U19 Girls, who secured key wins to qualify for the knockout stages. The Boys' U16 and U19 teams also recorded strong victories, with the U16s advancing to the East Region Quarter-Finals.

Hurling & Camogie:

Our Senior Hurlers had a superb 5-21 to 2-09 win over Malahide and proudly competed in the Leinster B Championship for the first time. Both Camogie teams put in competitive displays against Portmarnock and Loreto Balbriggan.

Rugby:

The Senior Boys made an excellent start to the season, winning all three matches at their opening blitz.

Badminton & Golf:

Our U16 Girls gained valuable badminton experience against Loreto Bray, while our Golf team shone in the schools' competition—special congratulations to Sebastian Darmody on taking first place.

Debating & HerSport:

MUN participants represented the school superbly, and our 3rd Years benefited from an inspiring HerSport workshop on the lifelong mental health benefits of physical activity.

