



Bish Summer 2025 E-Zine



Letter From The Principal



Dear Parents, Students, Staff, and Friends of The Bish,

As we move through another vibrant school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the many exciting experiences and achievements we've enjoyed so far. I am so grateful for the help and support of the entire Bish community in my first year as Principal. While there have been ups and downs, I am so honoured and proud to be in this role. Day by day I am learning

and while I am looking forward to a rest in July, I am also thinking ahead to next year whilst reflecting on the great successes of this one.

It has truly been a great year at The Bish, filled with energy, enthusiasm, and a deep sense of community spirit. From academic milestones to creative arts, from the thrill of competition on the sports fields to our many cultural and extracurricular events, our students have embraced every opportunity with a great sense of commitment and dedication. Our calendar has been full with numerous sporting and extracurricular events showcasing both individual talent and



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team spirit. Whether on the pitch, track, or court, our students have represented us with pride and determination. We have Connacht Chess Champions, All Ireland Basketball Bronze Medallists and Juvenile Gaelic Connacht Champions among so many others. We enjoyed the return of our much-loved Bish Bash, which brought the entire school community together in celebration. Our skiers went to Austria which was a fantastic adventure, filled with laughter, learning, and snow-covered memories and more recently, the Paris trip offered our students a wonderful blend of culture, history and great fun enjoyed by all.

Needless to say, when you start reflecting on the year and listing various successes, inevitably you leave something out which is not my intention but what I do want to highlight is how incredibly grateful we are to have such a high level of volunteerism and participation. Teaching is learning is our number one priority but I am very aware that some of our greatest learnings happen outside the classroom and that's why our extracurriculars are so important.

Behind the scenes, there's been important progress too. We secured planning permission in December for our new school project in Dangan which is a major step forward. There is a

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dedicated team working on this and we are inching closer to our new school. Meanwhile we are continuing with essential work on the roof of the monastery building following on from Storm Darragh and Storm Eowyn and ensuring that we maintain high standards on our current site.

This year we also secured our Erasmus accreditation which is a massive milestone in developing the highest levels of teaching and learning which we are very proud of. We have welcomed Erasmus groups from the Czech Republic and Finland this year and next year we will be returning the visits to them. There will be some amazing opportunities for our students to engage with other European schools and cultures.

I know that over the next two weeks there will be yet more events, more laughter and more learning. We have our Induction Night for Incoming First Years, our Graduation for our Leaving Cert students and our Sports Awards Ceremony as well as a busy Activities Week for our junior school.

As always, I'm incredibly proud of our students, grateful to our dedicated staff, and thankful to all of you – our wider school family – for your continued support.

As you may be aware, Mr. Seamus Cahalan is retiring at the end of this school year after 38 years of dedicated service to The

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Bish. I want to extend a sincere word of thanks to him for his advice, support and friendship through the years and particularly since I joined the senior leadership team in 2022. Seamus has always had a wonderful way about him whether in the classroom teaching English or his beloved Technical Graphics or as a Deputy Principal attending to the day to day running of the school. We wish him the very best of luck going forward.

I hope you all have a restful and happy summer with your friends, family and loved ones. Please look after each other. Keep our Junior and Leaving Cert students in your thoughts and prayers and see you all, please God in the new school year.

With my very best wishes always,

Sarah Gleeson.

Around The School



Ms. Holden's TY class visited the Augustinian Church earlier in the term. With the new pope being an Augustinian himself, there is great excitement among everyone. Father Tony warmly welcomed the students and spoke with them about this significant moment in the Catholic History.



This year we took part in Darkness into Light. Our Headstrong Team and TY students decided to take part, as well as a handful of teachers. So proud of these lads. We're lucky to have them!



Around the School



We received a visit from Brendan Smith to talk to our 2nd Year students about the topic of Cybersafety and responsible technology use. We all know how prevalent this subject is in today's world, so it's important we teach our youth this information.



Congratulations to Tomás Spellacy and Gavin Ryan for winning the Bish quiz finale on the 15th of May! We know there are a lot of good competitors within the school, so this is no small feat!



Sports



Our FOUR FAIS Irish internationals Jacob, James, MacDarragh and Billy after their 6-2 win against Northern Ireland.

Congrats to Bish Senior Basketball Captain Luke Herrick who played a star role with Titan's BC winning the All-Ireland U20 National Cup in the NBA Tallaght against Garvey Tralee Tigers. Last year's captain Viktor Tashev also played a major part in the superb win!



We saw an amazing performance from our 1st years- Minor A Basketball. They are all All Ireland Bronze Medal winners. Huge thanks to Mr. Conboy and Mr. O Malley for their coaching and support.



Sports



Well done to all intermediate athletes who competed at the Connacht Finals in Athlone.

Bothers Kevin and Daniel Sangodele have qualified for the All Ireland Finals after superb results in the triple jump. Hard luck to the inter relay team who were up against tough competition.!



St Joseph's College The Bish Juvenile A
Connacht Champions 2025

Sports



A brilliant win for the Bish lads in the Juvenile A Connacht final.

This is only our second ever A title in GAA. More pics and match report to follow!

Captain Noah Griffin accepts the Juvenile A Connacht ---> Championship trophy



Sports



Well done to the Bish Rowers who won at Lough Rinn on the 10th of May. A big congratulations to Seán Óg Heffernan, Aaron MacDonagh, Eoghan Cooke, Joseph Hedges, and Diarmuid Murphy, Oisín Costello, Darragh Naughton, James Hobby, Tomás Spellacy, and Dylan Noone-Gaughan, Samuel Cameron, Nathaniel Moore, Aaron Spelman, Michael Ryan & Jack Cassidy for winning in the Junior Quads, Junior Fours & the J16 Quads



Paris Trip



The Paris trip was a massive success! A group of TYs and 5th Years flew to Paris over the Easter Break. Throughout their time in the city, the students managed to go to the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, the Arc De Triomphe, the Stade De France, Disneyland and more! They managed to fit a lot into the trip, seeing nearly the entirety of Paris.

On the first day they really hit the ground running. They saw the Eiffel Tower, the Arc De Triomphe, the Camps Elysees and the Louvre. By the time people got back to the hotel, they were tired, after being up since three in the morning!



On the second day, we went to see the entire city on a bus and boat tour. We had an expert, an Irish man who had lived in France for years telling us about things. We got to see Napoleon's Tomb and the Original Island of Paris. For the boat tour, we went down the Seine, and saw the city from a new perspective. And in the evening, we went to the Sacre Coeur and shopping in Montmartre.

Paris Trip



The third day was Disneyland, which most people agreed was the best. They didn't have fastpasses, so the lines were a long wait. They had full access to both parks, and about eight hours to go on as many rides as they wanted. At the end of the day, they were given food vouchers and allowed to pick up food in any restaurant in the park.



The final day was the Palace of Versailles, the Stade De France and the Air and Space Museum. The students got to see rooms made of gold, the same places Thierry Henry sat and real rockets. It was truly a great trip that I'm sure they'll remember for the rest of their lives.



Events



Our Bish flags fly at half-mast in honor of the passing of Pope Francis. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



We also as a part of the Erasmus program welcomed students from HelloSchool in Ostrava in Czechia on an Erasmus + Mobility. They got to explore Galway in the sunshine and start some project work. Luckily they arrived here when it was nice, so they didn't have to endure the Galway rain!



Events



The Erasmus Program has brought people back to the school, this from Finland. The students stayed here for two days, in which they were brought to the Burren, Inis Mór and shown around the city. The students reported that they loved the city, with most agreeing it was beautiful. Thanks to Mr O'Reilly and Mr Spellacy for their help, as well as the ten students who volunteered. We hope that they enjoyed their trip and wish the same to the lads who are going next year.



The members of the Gaisce program did their final step in it, by doing a 25km hike in the Burren. The overnight trip was arranged and organised by Mr Spellacy, who had ran the Gaisce program all year. The students walked for five hours, before heading to their hostel, where they played a big game of soccer and did a golf putting competition. The next day, they went jumping into the water at the peir, before heading home by two pm.



TY Trips



Transition Year students had an unforgettable experience when they went surfing on the 6th and 7th of May at the renowned Lahinch Surf School. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to not only learn how to surf, but also to enjoy the beautiful, rugged coastline of Lahinch. The weather was perfect, with clear skies and ideal wave conditions, making it an incredible day on the water. Safe to say, everyone had a blast, with lots of laughs, some wipeouts, and plenty of new skills learned. The thrill of catching waves and the sense of accomplishment after riding them made the trip a highlight of the year for many of the students!



TY Trips



The TYs took a trip to the Aran Islands, where they got to see all around the island. At the start of the day, they rented out bikes and began cycling to Dún Aengus, stopping at a beach along the way for lunch and a swim. Once at the fort, they looked down the cliff on their stomachs as to not fall off. They got back at about six o'clock at night, and everyone agreed it was one of the best trips of the year.

The TYs enjoyed a trip to Bay Sports. They got to paddle around in kayaks, paddleboats and plenty of massive water slides. The slides were really big and intense, with some shooting you into the air to land in the water. It was quite hard to climb up any other the steps, due to the fact that they were slippery, so plenty of people fell into the water. The TYs reported that it was a fun day all around, and everyone enjoyed going.



Enjoy the Summer!



By Nathaniel Moore, Ben Fegan & Christian Dimitrov