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Desk

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM

CEIST CEO MAEVE MAHON

In this third week of Advent there is a sense of joyful anticipation of what is to come. The lighting of the pink candle on the Advent Wreath and the priest's rose-coloured vestments signal that time is moving on. It is Gaudete Sunday — a time to rejoice as we come ever closer to welcoming the Christ Child into our homes and our world.

The readings for Gaudete Sunday are filled with hope, confidence, and joy. They remind us that our God is one who causes the dry lands to exult and the wastelands to rejoice and bloom (Is 35:1). The psalm proclaims a God who gives sight to the blind, raises up those who are bowed down, and protects the stranger. The second reading (James 5) invites us to a patience grounded in hope as we wait, while the Gospel (Matthew 11) assures us that the Lord is near and reminds us that faithfulness is required, even when the journey is not always easy.

As I reflected on these readings, I realised how deeply their message resonates with all our CEIST schools at this time of year. In every school this week there is a strong sense of joyful anticipation. House exams are over or nearing completion, school shows have wrapped up, a busy and eventful term is coming to a close, and the Christmas holidays are in sight. The pictures and words in our Christmas Newsletter tell the story of the many highlights of the first term, and each page reflects a genuine celebration of what it means to be a CEIST school.



Over recent weeks, our social media platforms have also offered glimpses of how CEIST school communities live out their values and mission — giving generously to those less fortunate, visiting nursing homes and day-care centres, spreading joy through Christmas jumpers, singing carols, and gathering in prayer throughout this Advent season.

This time of year can also remind us that the journey is not always easy. It can be difficult to trust in God's presence, particularly when tragedy strikes our school communities, as it does all too often. At such times, what we treasure in our CEIST school communities sustains us and assures us that there is always light in the darkness. The lighting of candles, gathering together in prayer, a gentle hand on the shoulder, and the support of a faith community enable us to continue to hope on the journey.

It has been a busy term in the CEIST office as well. Since mid-August, we have met with newly appointed principals and deputy principals. The team has worked closely with chairpersons and principals to approve 106 Admission Policies using the new CEIST template. We hosted our annual Conference, attended by a record number of delegates, which was truly a highlight of the CEIST calendar. COTHÚ continues to grow and Cohort II have begun to meet for their initial cluster meetings. For the first time, chairpersons and principals gathered together in network meetings, and the very positive response means this will become a regular feature in the future.

Over the past number of weeks we have also gathered with deputy principals. These sessions were largely led by the participants themselves, resulting in rich reflection, learning, and discussion. There have been opportunities for RE teachers to gather and be nourished, and for newly appointed DLPs and DDLPs to explore Child Safeguarding Procedures as they take up their new roles.

In October, forty-one new boards of management were appointed, representing a total of 328 members, of whom 220 (67%) were newly appointed. Twenty-two chairpersons (54%) were appointed for the first time. This is a wonderful testament to the commitment of local communities to their CEIST schools, and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all those who serve on boards of management. Your generosity in stepping forward to help lead and shape your school communities is deeply appreciated.

The recruitment of new principals and deputy principals began in June and continues right up to the final week of this term and beyond. It has been an exceptionally busy period for recruitment, and I wish to thank the Faith, Leadership and Governance Coordinators who lead these processes on behalf of boards of management. The appointment of a principal or deputy principal is among the most important responsibilities of a board, and the support provided by the FLG team is invaluable.



This term has also been a time of change within the CEIST office. We have said goodbye to our Director of Finance, Bernadette McKeown, to FLG Coordinator Rita McCabe, and we will shortly bid farewell to our Director of Education, Rob Halford. They will all be greatly missed. Their contribution and commitment to CEIST have been nothing short of extraordinary, and we wish them every blessing as they begin new chapters.

We were delighted to make two in-house appointments: Lisa Newman as Finance and Administration Manager, and Yvonne Bane as FLG and Primary Liaison for the south-west region. We have also welcomed Audrey Baneham Farrell as our new administrative assistant and are currently recruiting for a new Director of Education, as well as creating a panel for possible future FLG vacancies. The sustainability of an organisation depends on growth both from within and from without, and we are blessed that CEIST continues to exemplify this.

As I come to the end of my first year as CEO, it is with great joy that I look back on the many encounters with members of the CEIST community, my visits to schools, and my ongoing engagement with the wider education community. Thank you for the welcome and support you have extended to me at every turn. It has been a busy and fruitful year — truly, every day has been a school day. I have learned so much and look forward to the year ahead with confidence and hope.

As the term and year draw to a close, I wish all our school communities a happy, safe, peaceful, and holy Christmas. May 2026 be filled with many graces, and may we all return refreshed on 5 January.

A blessing for our CEIST Community

May the light of Christ, born anew at Christmas,
bring peace to our hearts, hope to our communities,
and joy to our schools and homes.

May God bless each member of the CEIST community
for the generosity, care, and faith you share every day,
and may the coming year be one of renewal, courage,
and deep trust in God's loving presence.

Amen.



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SACRED HEART SECONDARY SCHOOL, DROGHEDA

Ana Carolina Ferreira was awarded our Catherine McAuley Award 2025

Ana Carolina was a student who exemplifies grace, resilience, and the very spirit of our school.

She arrived to Ireland and joined us in Transition Year, with little English, in a completely new environment, and at a time in her life already full of change. Yet, from the very beginning, she faced each challenge not with hesitation, but with a quiet strength and a radiant smile, that never seems to fade.

Adapting to a new culture, a new language, and a different way of life is no small task—but she has done so with elegance, independence, and remarkable emotional intelligence. Ana Carolina does not wait for others to open doors for her—she finds the way, and often holds the door open for others as well.

Ana Carolina has a deep love of learning, and a genuine curiosity about the world around her. Whether in Politics, English, or Irish class, she leans in with enthusiasm—asking thoughtful questions, engaging with ideas, and always eager to understand more. Her presence lifts those around her. She is full of fun and laughter, and has an extraordinary ability to draw people out of themselves—to make them feel seen, heard, and valued.

What makes her truly special is not just her intelligence, but her kindness. She is emotionally wise beyond her years, and consistently shows a profound understanding of others. She leads with integrity and empathy—qualities that are deeply needed in our world.

Ana Carolina is, in every sense, the embodiment of Catherine McAuley's vision. She is what we hope every girl here might grow to be: courageous, compassionate, intelligent, independent, and deeply human.

It is an honour to have her as part of our school community.



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ST MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL NENAGH

St Mary's U14 Soccer Team Fly the Flag in Shropshire

St Mary's U14 soccer team proudly represented Ireland at the Rod Heuston Cup in Shropshire, England, following their All-Ireland triumph. Competing at the historic Lilleshall Sports Complex, they experienced elite-level facilities alongside Team GB athletes. On the pitch, they drew 1-1 with Stanwell before losing on penalties, then defeated Caerleon 5-0. Their final match against Surbiton High, featuring Premier League prospects, ended 3-1, although St Mary's scored Surbiton's only conceded goal. Beyond results, the trip fostered friendships and unforgettable memories. The team thanks sponsors, families, and dedicated staff. A special thanks to manager Ms Jill White—for making this remarkable experience possible.

TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS SHINE IN SPECTACULAR MUSICAL PRODUCTION

Our talented Transition Year students have brought the house down with their incredible musical production, which took place before Christmas. The two-night event was a resounding success, delighting audiences with outstanding performances, vibrant choreography, and heartfelt singing that showcased the remarkable creativity and dedication of our students.

Weeks of hard work and rehearsals paid off, as the cast and crew delivered a polished, energetic, and thoroughly entertaining show. From the dazzling costumes to the impressive stage design, every detail reflected the commitment and teamwork that went into making the production a triumph.



The school community, parents, and local supporters filled the hall with enthusiastic applause and praise, commending the students for their professionalism and passion. Many described the musical as one of the highlights of the school year.

Huge congratulations to all the students, teachers, and staff involved for creating such a memorable and inspiring event. It was truly a celebration of talent, creativity, and collaboration.

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ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, NAAS, CO. KILDARE

Mercy Mass, A "Walk Down Memory Lane"

St. Mary's College (Coláiste Naomh Mhuire) marked its 90th Anniversary with a spectacular concert, Songs of Inspiration and Hope, in the Church of Our Lady and St. David. The evening honoured nine decades of excellence and community, welcoming Mercy Sisters, Bishop Denis, alumni, and friends. Principal Mark Dowling expressed gratitude for the vision of Catherine McAuley and the Mercy Sisters who founded the College.

Earlier, a "Walk Down Memory Lane" reunited hundreds of past pupils, including 104-year-old alumna Mabel Lyons, who shared stories from the 1930s. A mass on October 1st, themed United in Faith, Strong in Community, Inspired by Mercy, featured symbolic offerings like a Legacy Tree and the historic College Register.

The concert showcased world-renowned soprano and alumna Celine Byrne, joined by Norah King, Caroline Behan, and the Baldonnel singers. Performances ranged from classical pieces like Ave Maria to contemporary favorites, creating an atmosphere of joy and nostalgia. A stirring finale of I'm Dreaming of Home and You'll Never Walk Alone united the audience in song.

This milestone celebration honoured St. Mary's proud past, while inspiring hope for the future—a testament to its' enduring legacy of faith, learning, and community.





HOLY ROSARY COLLEGE, MOUNTBELLEW

Holy Rosary College's Musical

Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew school musical Popstars took place in early November. Almost 100 Transition Year students took to the stage to perform, showcasing their talent and enthusiasm. They were supported by the first-year choir, whose confident and well-rehearsed performance added greatly to the success of the show. Well done to all involved.

60TH ANNIVERSARY

Holy Rosary College celebrated its 60th Anniversary on 7th October with a special Mass, followed by the blessing of a grotto created to mark the occasion. Pictured are Fr. Pat Donnellan, a past pupil, blessing the grotto, and members of the organising committee.



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COLÁISTE AN CHROI NAOFA, CARRIGNAVAR, CO. CORK

CEIST AWARD 2025

Our annual awards night was held in the Coláiste, on Tues 11th November. It is an annual celebration of excellence in our school. The CEIST Award which represents the spirit of CEIST, was awarded to Lily Foley. As a faith community, where Gospel values are lived, core values of respect, resilience, learning and nurturing a just, responsible and caring school community. These core values were embraced by Lily in her time in our school. Well done Lily!



Chevalier Day

As a Missionaries of the Sacred Heart School and now part of the CEIST family, we celebrated its founder Fr. Jules Chevalier on October 21st. We marked the day with a whole school moment of prayer and reflection. Each of the classes explored the life of Jules Chevalier and the meaning of his charism of bringing God's love to all people. There were lots of activities exploring the missions. The MSH's minister in more than 50 countries worldwide with over 1,700 MSH's carrying on the legacy of their founder, Fr. Jules Chevalier and we are the only school here in Ireland.

The MSH's founding belief is "To be on earth the heart of God", and this understanding of God's love influences the decisions we make, the way we think and act, and the way in which we adapt to different situations. We invited all in our school community to appreciate the peace, joy, and hope that God's love brings to our day-to-day lives.



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SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE, BALLYROAN RATHFARNHAM

Climate Action Week at Sancta Maria College

Our Green-Schools Committee led a brilliant Climate Action Week, focusing on our water theme, to raise awareness about water conservation. Students shared daily water facts and created colourful CSPE posters.

A highlight was the Dodder River Walk and Clean-Up, where students and staff helped protect the local environment.

On Friday, 17th October, our Blue Day Fundraiser raised money for new water fountains in our school.

Classes also enjoyed water-themed activities, including guided meditation, a water footprint quiz, and debates on banning bottled water.

It was a really successful week that strengthened our awareness of climate action, creativity, and community spirit.

TY COFFEE MORNINGS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR VITAL CHARITIES

The TY students from Sancta Maria College, in conjunction with Ballyboden Tidy Towns, recently hosted a series of coffee mornings in Buglers Pub, Ballyboden, to raise funds for the Irish Cancer Society and the Irish Hospice Foundation. The events were filled with freshly baked treats, warm cups of tea and coffee, and plenty of friendly conversation. A welcoming atmosphere was experienced by all who attended.

The students showed remarkable enthusiasm and teamwork as they hosted, prepared, and served throughout the mornings. Their dedication to supporting these important causes was clear, and their efforts were met with fantastic generosity from the local community. In total, they raised €452.00 for the Big Coffee Morning and €673.00 for the Pink Meitheal Coffee Morning.

Overall, the coffee mornings were a wonderful success, showcasing the spirit, kindness, and community engagement of our TY students.



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ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, ARKLOW

St. Mary's College Arklow – School of Sanctuary & CEIST Conference

St. Mary's College, Arklow are absolutely delighted and proud that one of their own received the School of Sanctuary Award at a special ceremony in Wexford. Our Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl also represented us with distinction, delivering an inspiring and heartfelt speech at the CEIST Conference.

SCHOOL OF ROCK – THE MUSICAL

What an out-of-this-world performance from our talented students! With three matinees and four sold-out night shows, School of Rock was an incredible success. The energy, teamwork, and talent on stage were amazing — we are so proud of our entire school community for creating something truly unforgettable.





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SACRED HEART SECONDARY SCHOOL, DROGHEDA SCIENCE WEEK

During Science Week (10th–14th November), Sacred Heart Secondary School hosted a range of engaging activities. These included science facts on bathroom doors, lunchtime experiments run by the TY STEM Ambassadors, and the launch of their science workbook for our school and local primary schools. Students also enjoyed a murder-mystery challenge with a simulated crime scene, a daily Dingbats competition, and a steady-hand challenge, created by Mr Guinness. The week concluded with a whole school assembly featuring an exciting live demonstration by the Science Department. The Science Week concluded with Mr. Eivers of the Science Department, who was honoured with the 2025 Early Career Prize for Excellence in Secondary and Further Education, by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Sacred Stars Talent Show

On Thursday 13th November, the school community of Sacred Heart Secondary School, Drogheda came together for a fantastic fundraising event. Over the course of the evening our 5th year LCA students hosted the Sacred Stars Talent Show, showcasing a variety of talents, including singing, dancing, and instrumental performances, with some teachers joining in too.

We were honoured to welcome Brian Dunphy of The High Kings and retired music teacher Ms. Collins, who came as guest judges. The atmosphere was electric, filled with excitement and applause, as students and staff demonstrated their creativity and skill. The event concluded with a stunning performance of the song "Grace" from Brian & Ms. Collins. The event was a tremendous success and raised €1500.



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PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL MILLTOWN

Garda Youth Achievement Awards

We are delighted to share that our 3rd Year student, Lily Falvey, was honoured at this year's Kerry Garda Youth Achievement Awards this past September. Lily received her award in recognition of the remarkable love, care and support she shows to her sister Hannah, who has special needs.

This achievement is a fitting tribute to Lily's kindness, strength of character and the positivity she brings to those around her. We are incredibly proud of her for this truly inspiring achievement!

MAKING WAVES: TY STUDENTS DIVE INTO ADVENTURE AT INCH BEACH

Here are some of our TY students enjoying one of the standout experiences of our Transition Year programme, surfing lessons on the iconic Inch Beach. Having such an extraordinary location on our doorstep allows us to bring adventure, confidence-building and real joy into our Active Leisure module, in a way that truly enriches our school community.





PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL KILKENNY

County Council Recognition Award

Our school was honoured to receive a County Council Recognition Award from Cathaoirleach Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, for an exceptional year of achievement. With multiple nationalities, All-Ireland finalists, international representatives, and major awards across sport, academics, enterprise and the arts. This honour celebrates the remarkable dedication and talent of our entire school community.

PRESENTATION DAY

Our school community came together for a special Presentation Day Mass celebrating 225 years of Presentation residence in Kilkenny. This whole-school event honoured the legacy of the Presentation Sisters, many of whom joined us on the day. It was a joyful celebration of faith, heritage and the continuing spirit of Nano Nagle.



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COLÁISTE BRÍDE, CLONDALKIN, DUBLIN 22

Ember Faith Committee

The Ember Team in our school organise faith-based activities and initiatives and support liturgical events, such as Presentation Day, throughout the school year. We also have a pastoral role in helping younger students feel supported and welcomed.

Presentation Day took place on 21st November in Coláiste Bríde, and every year this is an extremely important day in our school, as we are afforded the opportunity to show respect to Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters.

The theme for our Presentation Day celebration this year was "Fan It Forward" - we came up with this idea at the Ember Training, we attended in Ovoca Manor and encouraged all students of all faiths to fan the flame of Nano Nagle forward into their lives on Presentation Day.

THINK LANGUAGES CELEBRATION

On 18th November 2025, students in Coláiste Bríde took part in Think Languages week. This was an excellent opportunity to celebrate the great diversity of languages and cultures in the school community. Under the guidance of Ms Moloney, Transition Years took part in a number of Think Languages workshops. These included a display of dance including some ballet, and an introduction to the Russian language. As part of this multicultural celebration, all year groups were involved in a fantastic display of cultural dress from many different countries around the world.



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SCOIL MHIURE, GREENHILL

All-Ireland Celebrations

"The second half of dreams" was how Gavin O'Halloran described Tipperary's unbelievable winning display in the All-Ireland final against Cork last July.

In September, we were delighted to welcome the Liam McCarthy cup and the U-20 James Nowlan cup to Scoil Mhuire. The whole school gathered to celebrate and hear how dedication, hard work and commitment were crucial in ensuring the great success achieved this year.

As well as Gavin and Aaron O'Halloran from the Senior team, we were also delighted to welcome Callum Lanigan and Stefan Tobin from the U-20 squad, who also took the time to convey just how exceptional this year has been for Tipperary hurling.

The special visit transformed an ordinary school day into a memorable celebration of teamwork, perseverance, and community pride.

TRANSITION YEARS VISIT SHINE

Shine Festival is a very special online and in-person event created by The Shona Project. In honour of International Day of the Girl, the event in SETU Waterford, brought together, hundreds of Ireland's most inspirational women, all of whom have stories to tell or advice to share, to the next generation of inspirational women.

'I am the key to my life' was one of the many motivating messages imparted to our TY students at this event last October. With speakers such as Tammy D'Arcy, the Shona Project founder, Laura Dowling and Sarah Corbett Lynch. Students were engaged in discussions on mental health, sustainability, making changes and how to be an ally.



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PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL WATERFORD Erasmus Trips 2025

Our TY students had an amazing two-week experience in Graz, Austria, and Neumarkt, Germany.

Lily and Julia spent two wonderful weeks in Graz, Austria, exploring the country's rich culture and everyday life!

They attended our partner school HLW Schrödinger and stayed with warm and welcoming host families.

A big thank you to Erasmus+ co-ordinator Elisabeth and her assistant Victoria for organising the exchange and taking such great care of our girls while in Graz.

In Germany, Sophie, Julia, Sahra, and Ida spent two exciting weeks in Neumarkt, Bavaria, attending our partner school, Ostendorfer Gymnasium. A huge thank you to Frau Dona Brogelly for her wonderful support in organising their stay and for looking after our students while they are in Germany.

2ND-YEAR STUDENTS RECEIVE A LETTER FROM UACHTARÁN NA HÉIREANN MICHAEL D. HIGGINS.

Our 2nd-year students from Ms McNerney's class created a card and wrote letters to President Higgins, wishing him the best of luck in his upcoming retirement.

Not long after sending their handmade card, they received a letter from him thanking them for their card, and accompanying the letter was a signed postcard for each student. Well done, girls!





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SACRED HEART SECONDARY SCHOOL, TULLAMORE

SHS Celebrates Recognition as Microsoft Showcase School

The Sacred Heart School, Tullamore, has once again been named a Microsoft Showcase School for 2025–2026, joining an elite global network of innovators in education technology. Remarkably, it is the only Irish school to achieve this honour across five academic years. This recognition celebrates SHS's excellence in digital transformation, teacher empowerment, and inclusive, student-centred learning—a milestone, Microsoft's Kevin Marshall describes as a “new chapter” in the school's forward-thinking journey.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL DELIGHTS A SOLD OUT RUN WITH THE ADDAMS FAMILY MUSICAL

After last year's successful and AIMs award winning production of Legally Blonde, Sacred Heart School's recent production of The Addams Family was a thrilling mix of humour, heart, and hauntingly good fun. A total of 140 students were involved in the performance to sold out audiences, highlighting the impressive talent, dedication, and teamwork of Sacred Heart's students and staff.





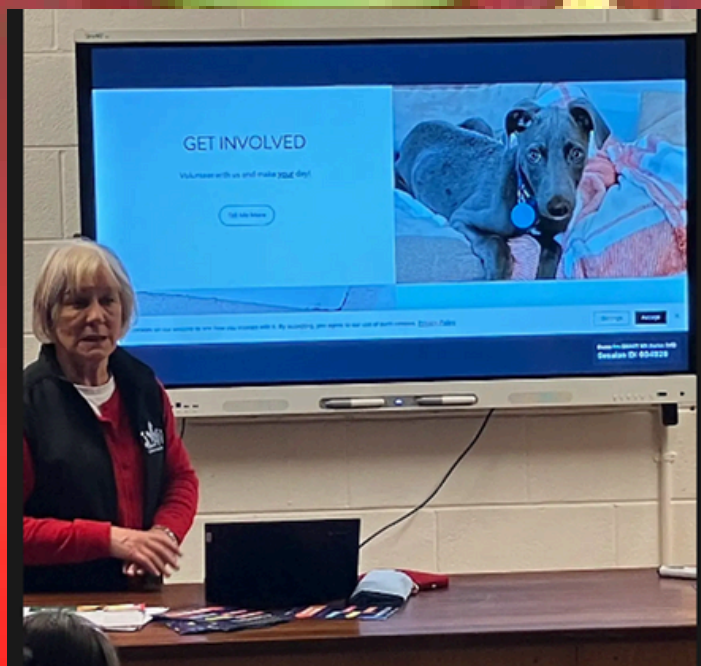
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ST MARYS SECONDARY SCHOOL CHARLEVILLE

Limerick Animal Welfare

The second year's had a bake sale and raised €240 for Limerick Animal Welfare. Thank you to Geraldine and Lisa for coming in on Tuesday, 25th November to give a presentation to the students about the work they do. Thank you for bringing Lexie, Gypsy and Lucky with you. The girls made a presentation of the money they raised on the day.



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COLÁISTE CHROÍ MUIRE GAN SMAL, AN SPIDÉAL

Alt don Nuachtlitir - Scoláireacht Sármhaitheasa

Rinneadh ceiliúradh ag searmanas speisialta in Ollscoil na Gaillimhe, an tseachtain seo caite ar mhic léinn ón gcéad bhliain a ghnóthaigh pointí arda i Scrúdú na hArdteistiméireachta 2025. Tréaslaímid lenár n-iardhalta Fionnán Ó Coisdealbha, a bhí i measc na mac léinn a bhain amach Scoláireachtaí Sármhaitheasa i mbliana. Guímid gach rath ort a Fhionnán agus tú ag tabhairt faoin gcéad chéim eile de do chuid oideachais. Is maith an oidhe ort é! Gráinne Ní Fhlannabhra, Príomhoide agus Fionnán Ó Coisdealbha, Coláiste Chroí Mhuire, An Spidéal.

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ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Past pupil and Grammy Award winning musician Cian Ducrot visiting the school

In an inspiring visit, Cian Ducrot returned to his former school, St. Peter's Community School, this week, where he spent an afternoon reconnecting with the place that shaped much of his educational years. The visit, which was organised as part of the school's ongoing commitment to fostering connections with alumni, coincided with the making of a documentary for Virgin Media, that is being produced about Cian. It also provided an opportunity for staff to meet the talented musician and hear first-hand about his journey from a student at St. Peter's, to an international music artist. As Cian Ducrot stepped back onto the familiar grounds of his former school, he was greeted with a warm reception from Principal Tony McSweeney. Walking through the halls, where his own academic journey began, Cian could not help but reminisce about the teachers who made a difference in his life, and the friends he made during his time there.

BT YOUNG SCIENTIST FINALISTS FRANCESCA KYAMANGERO & MADDISON SPRIGGS

We were delighted as a school to have two projects selected as finalists for the 61st BT Young Scientist exhibition. Project 1: Electric Art: Density's Secret (Lea Vucko) Project 2: Are coaches' prior beliefs of gender associated with a basketball players progression? Francesca KYAMANGERO & Maddison Spriggs.



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MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOL, BALLYMAHON

Porsche Junior Restoration Projekt Launch

On Wednesday 3rd September, Mercy Ballymahon officially launched the Porsche Junior Restoration Projekt, which is the first of its kind in Ireland, the UK, or the US. As part of this project, eight of our Transition Year students have been busy restoring a vintage Porsche Junior tractor. This restoration will not only aid students in gaining hands-on skills, but it will also help build their confidence, create connections, and be a part of our wonderful history here at Mercy Ballymahon. The completed project will be showcased at the National Ploughing Championships, 2026. Thank you to Porsche Club Ireland, community leaders, and past pupils for their amazing support, in particular Porsche Club Ireland President David Thomas, who spoke to our students on the launch day. Thanks also to Paul Gregor who made his speech via video, and to everyone who contributed to the launch both through spoken word and support. We are extremely proud and very excited to see our students' progress over the coming months!

GAA FUTURE LEADERS PRIMARY SCHOOL BLITZ

On Friday 19th September, Mercy Ballymahon held our third annual GAA Primary School Blitz, organised by our TY GAA Future Leaders. The day saw 15 schools from the locality taking part in the event, with both 7 and 11 a-side games taking place between our school pitch and Ballymahon grounds. Congratulations to Jane Boardman of St Mary's Newtowncashel and Gavin Higgins of Tang NS, who were awarded Players of the Tournament for the fantastic talent they showed on the day. A big thank you to all the primary school staff and students for attending the event, and not to mention our own staff and students who made the day such a success. We look forward to welcoming all schools again next year, and to building and strengthening our community more and more each year.



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CASHEL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Ember Faith Committee

Cashel Community School's 31st production, *West End to Broadway*, was a dazzling success, showcasing scenes from sixteen iconic musicals and proving local talent, rivals the best. Act I featured standout performances in *Wonka*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Sister Act*, *West Side Story*, and *Matilda*, with Jake Whybrow, Sarah Meehan, and junior stars shining brightly. Highlights included powerful renditions from *Jersey Boys*, *Wicked*, and *Dear Evan Hansen*. Act II delivered energy and emotion through *Newsies*, *Miss Saigon*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Shrek*, *Oliver!*, *Hamilton*, and a joyous finale in *Something Rotten*. Inspired choreography, stunning sets, and vibrant costumes elevated the show, supported by a dedicated production team and TY backstage crew. This ambitious review stands as a monumental achievement for students and staff alike.

NOEL MCGRATH

Cashel Community School welcomed 4 time All Ireland winner and 3 time All Star hurler Noel McGrath, to speak to 3rd Year students recently. Noel spoke on the topic of *Limitless Minds*, and the importance of a positive mindset in all we do. Noel went on to wish the 3rd Year students, and indeed all in Cashel Community School, the very best for the upcoming school year.





PRESENTATION DE LA SALLE COLLEGE, BAGENALSTOWN

Erasmus Adventure

Presentation De La Salle College, Bagenalstown is embracing Europe through the Erasmus+ programme. Since 2023, students and teachers have explored France, Spain, Italy, Austria, and Germany, sharing culture, learning about sustainable practices, and enhancing how we use I.T. in our classrooms. These opportunities have broadened horizons, built confidence, and created unforgettable educational experiences for everyone involved.

POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD

Our school is proud to support students completing the Pope John Paul II Award. Through volunteering in the parish and community, students gain confidence, leadership skills, and a deeper sense of service. This programme enriches our school ethos, encouraging young people to use their time and talents to make a meaningful difference.





SCOIL PHOBAIL MHIC DARA

Construction Studies Students 2025

Our Students were delighted to have completed their projects for the Leaving Certificate. They produced a mixture of lovely pieces including coffee tables, chairs, a garden bench, to name but a few. Congratulations to them all.

OPENING YEAR MASS

The opening school year mass was made truly special by the reverent readers, the uplifting school choir and the thoughtful preparations by our caretaker, alongside the guidance of our Principal Dara, School Chaplain Irene and Priest Fr. Shane O'Sullivan.





CASTLEREA COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Castlerear Darkness into light 2025

Castlerear Community School was delighted to host the Darkness into Light Walk recently. The idea to organise a walk locally was first put forward by the Transition Year class of 2016. Since then they have worked in partnership with Ms. Yvonne Ryan, Castlerear Community School, and Gareth Scahill, Castlerear Towns Team, to organise the event each year.

It was wonderful to have the opportunity to host the event and to see such a large turnout, for such a lovely sunrise walk through the beautiful grounds of the Demesne. The committee were extremely busy on the days leading to this event, as the Home Economics Dept., led by Ms. Rebecca Brehony, prepared freshly baked refreshments, the Art Dept. led by Ms Pauline Connaughton, decorated the school assembly beautifully.

The school grounds were decorated in a sea of lanterns and fairy lights, led by our caretaker Mr Eddie Rowntree, while Ms Beth Taylor worked with 2nd yr students to plant flowers, symbolising hope. As always Ms Yvonne Hanbury, worked on light and sound and Ms Deirdre Collins, with her team organised the catering. A great team effort ensured the success of the event. Our thanks to Castlerear Gardai, Civil Defence and local people for stewarding. Thanks also to Olivia Prendergast, EmpowerFit Health and Wellness studio, who led the warmup prior to the walk. Finally, a huge well done to the hardworking TY and 5th Yr students who helped.



CELEBRATING OUR STEM AWARDS IN ATU SLIGO

Girls who completed Transition Year in CCS during 2024/25 were honoured with STEM awards at Atlantic Technological University (ATU), for the completion of the STEM Passport Awards. The girls were congratulated for their achievements and contributions in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, at a special awards ceremony at the ATU campus. Well done to all the girls and their teachers on this wonderful achievement.



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PRESENTATION *Ballingarry*



PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL, BALLINGARRY

Our New First Year Group Academic Year
2025/2026

We commenced the academic year with our First Year Welcome Prayer Service, during which our school community gathered to pray for guidance and blessing for the year ahead. This liturgy provided a reflective beginning and reaffirmed our shared mission to live out the CEIST values in our daily lives.

IN NOVEMBER WE REMEMBER

In keeping with the CEIST value of Promoting Spiritual and Human Development, the month of November saw a particular focus on remembrance and prayer. A Tree of Remembrance was placed in the central area of the school, inviting students and staff to honour loved ones who have died. We also held a Prayer Service for the faithful departed, offering a sacred space for reflection, comfort, and communal solidarity under the theme "In November, We Remember."



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ST. MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL, MALLOW

Knock Retreat

On November 4th, our Fifth Year students attended a retreat at Knock Shrine, guided by the Knock Youth Ministry Team. The retreat offered a calm break from school life, helping students explore their faith in a meaningful way. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD

The Transition Year John Paul II Award volunteers have been busy coordinating the collection of boxes for the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal. The Shoebox appeal is a key part of our Christmas preparations, along with our annual Christmas concert, which takes place this year on 3rd December.



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ARDSCOIL NA TRÍONÓIDE, ATHY

Our Headboy Timmy Byrne and Headgirl Anna Rose Kelly are leading by example and we are very proud of their endeavours.



The TY students are dedicated to their goals throughout the first term and have scaled the heights of Glendalough.





CALASANCTIUS COLLEGE, ORANMORE

Presentation Day Celebration 2025

On 21 November, the Calasanctius College community gathered to celebrate Presentation Day in honour and loving memory of our foundress, Most Venerable Nano Nagle. This annual celebration offers us a valuable moment to pause as a community, reflect on our shared values, and recognise how Nano's vision continues to shape an inclusive, compassionate school environment.

Mass was celebrated by Fr Diarmuid in Oranmore Church, where students and staff participated with great reverence. We were pleased to welcome retired staff members and representatives of the Presentation Order, whose presence highlighted the strong sense of belonging and continuity that remains central to our school identity.

After Mass, members of our school community visited the Presentation Sisters' graveyard on our campus. A wreath was laid in remembrance of the sisters who devoted their lives to education, service, and the building of community in Oranmore. Their commitment to inclusion, dignity, and care continues to inspire our work today.

We extend our sincere thanks to all who contributed to this year's celebration — including those involved in the liturgy, music, readings, and preparation. The respectful and collaborative spirit shown by our students and staff reflects the heart of our school community.

As we honour Nano Nagle's legacy, we continue to uphold the CEIST values of respect for every person, creating community, promoting spiritual development, and being just and responsible. May her light guide us as we strive to ensure that all members of our school feel seen, valued, and included.





OUR LADY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL, CASTLEBLAYNEY

Naughton Scholarship Awarded to Our Lady's Student

Our Lady's Secondary School proudly congratulates Jack Brady (Leaving Certificate Class of 2025) on receiving the prestigious Naughton Scholarship. Jack, now studying Engineering at UCD, becomes the ninth Our Lady's recipient in 15 years, reflecting the school's exceptional tradition of excellence and commitment to promoting STEM education.

OUR LADY'S STUDENTS INSPIRED BY 'HOW TO DEFUSE A BOMB' SCREENING

Our Lady's Secondary School TY students enjoyed an inspiring day at a screening of How to Defuse a Bomb: The Project Children Story. They were honoured to meet @ProjChildSafe founder Denis Mulcahy, whose powerful address inspired all. Sincere thanks to Mr. Mulroe for organising this memorable event.





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BALLYHAUNIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

School Musical

School musical was held on the 16th, 17th and 18th of October, 2025. Stellar performances from our talented students. Musical director: Gráinne Glavey, Producer: Anna Henry, Choreographer: Ciaran Kiely.



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COLÁISTE NA TOIRBHIRTE, BANDON

High School Rock

Our Transition year students on opening night of their musical, "High School Rock"

The annual musical is a whole school production but run as a TY project with every student in the year playing a role, from managing the sound and lighting desks, set design and production, costumes, PR and Sales, alongside the amazing talent which comes to life from the cast. A live band and first year chorus, complete the production.



TEAM HOPE SHOEBOX CAMPAIGN

The Religion Department co-ordinated the annual Team Hope Shoebox Campaign. Thanks to students and teachers who got involved with this campaign, 69 boxes left on their journey to reach children in Eastern Europe and Africa for Christmas.





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ST. BRIGID'S SECONDARY SCHOOL, KILLARNEY

Pride in Our Presentation

As part of a "Pride in Our Presentation" project, students gathered school uniform photos from across the generations, exploring how our uniform has evolved while still reflecting the values we hold today. Students loved involving parents and grandparents, sharing stories, and creating a beautiful display that celebrates our history, identity, and pride in wearing the Presentation uniform.

NEW PRINCIPAL

We are delighted with the announcement of Ms Mairéad McElligott as Principal. A dedicated educator and long-serving Deputy Principal, she brings exceptional experience in leadership, pastoral care and teaching. Deeply committed to our Catholic ethos and Presentation tradition, Ms McElligott looks forward to guiding the school through continued growth and development.





BLACKWATER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

An Taoiseach Micheál Martin to Officially Open New School Campus at Blackwater Community School, Lismore

Blackwater Community School in Lismore, Co. Waterford will celebrate a major milestone with the official opening of its new building and sports campus by An Taoiseach Micheál Martin on Friday, September 19th. Completed ahead of the 2024/2025 academic year, the state-of-the-art campus reflects years of planning, strong community support, and significant government investment. The development consolidates the school into a modern, cohesive facility featuring spacious classrooms, specialist subject areas, and enhanced recreational amenities to support academic and extracurricular achievement. Established in 2003 through the amalgamation of three schools, Blackwater has grown from 400 students to 970 in 2025. This multi-million euro project, launched in 2021, underscores the Department of Education's commitment to meeting the needs of a growing student population. Principal Denis Ring expressed pride in welcoming the Taoiseach, calling the day a testament to the school's dedication to fostering an inclusive and progressive learning environment.





COLAISTE MUIRE ENNIS

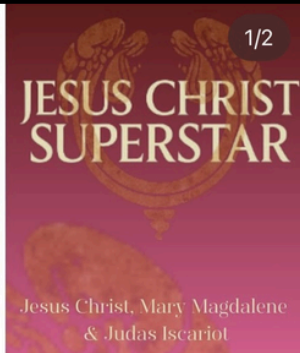
Mission Week 2025

During Mission Week this October, students enjoyed lunchtime concerts, bake sales, a "copper race," wacky-sock day and more to raise funds for our sister school, Mercy College, Nguutani in Kenya. The week concluded with a Leaving Cert show, marking a heart-warming end to a spirit-filled week of generosity.

SISTER ACT 2025

This month, our school staged the musical "Sister Act" from 24–29 November 2025. The production brought together students across TY and 5th year, with dedicated cast and crew working behind the scenes. The show was a vibrant celebration of talent, teamwork and school spirit, a wonderful highlight of our year.





Presentation Secondary School &
CBS High School Clonmel

PRESENTATION SECONDARY SCHOOL

Jesus Christ Superstar

"We had an amazing time with our 48th school show, Jesus Christ Superstar, which took place in collaboration with the CBS Clonmel in October. This long-standing tradition continues to be a highlight of the school year. The school show not only provides a wonderful opportunity for students to showcase their talents beyond the classroom but also gives past TY and 3rd year students to create new friendships on their journey as new 5th years. From the moment that the curtains it was clear how much passion and commitment put into the production from all involved. With unforgettable song and dance performances - accompanied by our live orchestra - it was an experience to remember".

Written by one of the sixth year media team members.

FAMILY BINGO

In addition to the school show, the Pres also held their first Family Bingo night fundraiser, alongside the Hillview sports club Clonmel in November. This community event was a massive success, filled with fun and laughter. Everyone enjoyed the excitement of playing bingo and supporting the school community. There was also a split-the-bucket raffle at halftime, with wonderful prizes to be won. With all proceeds raised going towards the student council to fund a new amenity on behalf of the student body. It was heartwarming to see everyone come together for such a worthy cause.



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A presentation was made by the patrons to Marion Buckley who is retiring having served as School Secretary for 46 years.

As seen in the photographs are the three joint patrons who visited the School to make the occasion. These Patrons are Bishop of Kerry Bishop Ray Browne, Director of Cork ETB Pat Mc Kelvey and representing the Presentation Sisters Pádraigin Uí Riordáin.





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SCOIL PHOBAIL SLIABH LUACHRA

Annual Awards Ceremony marks a day of honour, achievement and possibility

On Friday, 24 October 2025, Scoil Phobail Sliabh Luachra (SPSL) hosted its Annual Awards Ceremony, a highlight of the school year celebrating student achievements across academics, arts, sports, and leadership. The event began with refreshments at 10 a.m., offering guests the chance to meet Michael Moynihan TD, Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion, whose presence underscored the school's commitment to inclusive education. At 11 a.m., the packed sports hall reflected the strong sense of community and pride in student accomplishments.

Head Students Jack Murphy and Tommy O'Connor opened proceedings, while MC Nodhlaig Davern guided the ceremony with warmth. Awards spanned diverse areas, including the Arts, Humanities, Active Citizenship, Leadership, and memorial awards such as the Anne Casey Joy and Paud O'Leary prizes. Academic excellence was recognised through Leaving Certificate, LCA, and Junior Cycle awards. Musical interludes showcased the region's cultural heritage, adding vibrancy to the occasion.

Principal Mairéad Lucey closed with heartfelt thanks to all involved, reminding students that success takes many forms—effort, kindness, creativity, and courage. The day celebrated not only top results but the inclusive spirit of achievement, highlighting the many ways SPSL students contribute and excel.

