

COLÁISTE BHRÍDE

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EDITION 2025





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Senior Boys' Football

During the school year almost fifty boys represented Coláiste Bhríde in both Leinster and Wicklow senior competitions. The Senior B competition gave a lot of younger footballers an opportunity to experience the standard and challenge of senior football. This experience will stand to them next year. This panel captained by James Smyth was eventually knocked out of the Wicklow Championship at the quarter final stage.

The Senior A panel had a year that left a sweet and sour taste in everyone's mouth. This panel showed great promise as they qualified for both the South Leinster C and Wicklow A Finals. Unfortunately, both finals ended in defeat. This panel captained by Sammy Harpur represented the school very well all year displaying a fine range of skills. With so many of this panel back again next year they certainly will be a force to be reckoned with.





Junior Girls' Football

The girls' junior football team had a very successful Leinster campaign. The team played Presentation Wexford, Loreto Wexford and Gorey Community School in their group games. They recorded great wins in each game to progress to the knock-out stages of the competition. The girls defeated Holy Faith Newbridge in their Leinster Quarter Final in what was a close and exciting encounter. The team faced Loreto Kilkenny in the Leinster Semi-final. After extra time and an enthralling end-to-end match, the Carnew girls recorded another win and progressed to the Leinster Final. The Leinster Final was against Loreto Swords and the girls put in a great performance. Unfortunately, it wasn't their day and they were narrowly beaten by a very strong side. It was a brilliant achievement to reach this stage of the competition and there is no doubt that the future of ladies' football in Coláiste Bhríde is very bright.





Swimming

Congratulations to Ben Kelly, 6th year, who achieved a PB in the 100-metre Freestyle at the Leinster Senior Schools Swimming Competition. The event took place at the National Aquatic Centre, Abbotstown.

Ben has represented Coláiste Bhríde in schools' swimming events for almost six years and has achieved so much including qualification for events outside of Ireland.



First Year Girls' Football

The first-year girls' football team, captained by Sophie Doran, got off to a flying start this year. The girls have had an incredible season so far, with comprehensive wins against St Mary's Arklow, Blessington Community School and Gael Coláiste na Mara. The girls reached the Wicklow A Final where they met St Kevin's Dunlavin. Unfortunately, it wasn't a victory but what a fantastic achievement to reach a final in their first year at Coláiste Bhríde.





Senior Ladies' Football

It was an exceptional year for our Senior Ladies Football team. On the 22nd of January, the team defeated St Vincent's Dundalk to be crowned Leinster 'C' Champions, proudly bringing the perpetual cup back to Coláiste Bhríde. Sarah Doyle accepted the cup in her role as captain, while Áine Darcy was named Player of the Match. The team went on to represent the school in the All-Ireland series, where they were narrowly defeated by Bailieborough Community School, who subsequently went on to win the competition.



Hockey

This year saw the return of hockey to Coláiste Bhríde. The first- and second-year girls spent the first few months of the school year learning the skills and rules of the sport. The league kicked off in January where the Coláiste Bhríde teams took on Loreto Kilkenny, Loretto Wexford and Presentation College, Kilkenny. Both groups put on fine performances throughout the season and displayed promising new talent. This leaves us hopeful for a successful season next year.



Basketball

As always, our basketball season kicked off with our U16 and U19 teams in action early in September. This year, we entered U16 and U19 boys and girls teams into the South East League.

The U16 boys topped their group with wins over FCJ Bunclody and Wexford CBS, setting up a quarter final against The Abbey. This was a close battle, but unfortunately the boys ended up on the wrong side of the score line.



The U19 boys finished third in their group of five teams. Two huge wins over FCJ and Selskar College were followed by two close battles against Good Counsel and Wexford CBS.

Unfortunately, we were defeated in both those games in overtime, each by just two points.

The U16 girls topped their group, defeating Avondale, Creagh College, FCJ, and Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy. This set up a home quarter final against Loreto Wexford which also went to extra time. Unfortunately, a shot from Loreto, made from the halfway line at the buzzer, sealed the game for them.

The U19 girls finished second in their group, with a loss to Avondale, who we later met again in the South East Final. They were unfortunate not to retain their title from last year. However, this defeat did not mark the end as they have qualified for the All-Ireland Series. We look forward to next year with the real hope of some silverware.





Soccer

The girls competed in the U20 school league this year, reaching the regional quarter finals. Unfortunately, the girls did not get beyond this stage of the competition. Congratulations to three squad members who

signed with Waterford FC teams for this season. Kate Tomkins is playing with the WU17 team this season, while Sheana Carroll is playing with the WU19s. Olivia Shannon is currently playing with the women's premier team in the SSE Airtricity League where she scored the first premier goal of the season for Waterford FC vs. Sligo Rovers.



Women in Sport Week

We celebrated Women in Sport Week in style at Coláiste Bhríde this term. During base class a daily theme from 'HerMoves' was presented along with a role model in Irish sport. We celebrated our school community's ambassadors in sport and their commitment to women in sport across a wide number of areas; Camogie, Basketball, Soccer, Hockey, GAA football, Athletics and Equestrian.

Throughout the week a competition was held to complete a biography on a role model in Women's Sport. The winners were Kerry Sinclair, 3rd year, Aoibhe Johnson, 4th year, Tara Doran, 6th year and Anna Tomkins 6th year. The culminating event took place on Thursday inviting all the girls and women of the school community to the gym for a group photo.



Thank you to all those that supported and promoted Women in Sport Week.

Senior Camogie



The senior camogie team represented Coláiste Bhríde with great distinction throughout the year. They qualified from their group in the Leinster B Championship after games with FCJ, Bunclody, Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy and Presentation College, Wexford. In the quarter final they dispatched of a Loreto, Trim side comfortably with a comprehensive away victory. In the Leinster Semifinal the girls suffered an agonisingly close loss to Scoil Mhuire, Johnstown in December. Like in every tight game, some luck, and the bounce of a ball make a stark difference. It didn't fall on the Carnew side that day. That particular Johnstown team went on to win Leinster and All Ireland Honours later in the year.

Equestrian

Our equestrian team has had a fantastic season, with strong performances in both the TRI Equestrian Open teams and Hopoti Novice teams' competitions. Our students excelled in the individual competitions throughout the year, particularly Chloe Walsh who represented Coláiste Bhríde in the 110m final in CoilÒg Equestrian this past March. We would also like to extend a huge thank you and warm farewell to our Sixth-Year students, Cait Kenny and Cian Byrne. Both Cait and Cian have been invaluable members of the team during their time in Coláiste Bhríde. We wish them every success in the future, both in and out of the saddle.

Well done to all involved in our equestrian club this year and as we look ahead to the summer season, we wish all our riders continued success in their equestrian pursuits.





Junior Camogie

A noticeably young junior camogie team failed to qualify from their group in the Leinster Junior Championship this year after losing to Presentation, Wexford and FCJ, Bunclody. As mentioned this is an extremely young side who stepped to a level well beyond what they were used to. In the coming years there is no doubt that this group will bring silverware back to Coláiste Bhríde.

Minor Camogie

The 1st and 2nd year camogie team developed further as a team this year after their progress in the previous academic year. After a comprehensive victory over Gorey Community School in the first round and a narrow loss to Loreto, Wexford in the second they were left with a winner takes all game against Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy to qualify from the group. This was a very cagey and scrappy game but the Carnew girls won comfortably in the end and qualified to play Callan Community School in the quarter final.

Like their senior counterparts early in the year, luck was not on their side with many close calls going against the Carnew ladies. However, like all great teams, they battled hard and showed considerable pride in the jersey throughout. There will certainly be bright days ahead for this team.



U16 boys Football

The U16 boys football team qualified for the South Leinster semi-final with Dunlavin after defeating Creagh College, Gorey and PDLS, Bagenalstown in the group stages.

Unfortunately, the side was defeated by Dunlavin in the semi-final despite a late surge to overturn the deficit.



Junior Boys Football

The Junior boys football team defeated Dunlavin comfortably in their first round game on a very blustery day. In the second group game they fell to a strong Baltinglass side which saw them qualify second in the group. This resulted in a semi-final showdown with Coláiste Chill Mhantáin. After a very spirited performance the Canew boys unfortunately fell short. Once again, these players have made great strides forward this year and there are more promising days ahead.





Senior Hurling

The Coláiste Bhríde senior hurling team won the south Leinster hurling final defeating Ferrybank on a scoreline of 2-19 to 2-5. It was a huge achievement for this group. They then progressed to a Leinster semi-final against Boyne CS which they unfortunately lost on penalties. The game had ended 3-18 to 4-15 after extra time. A tough ending but the team can be proud of their year and we would particularly like to thank 6th years for their contribution to hurling in the school.



First Year Football and Hurling

The first-year boys hurling and football squads had a positive debut year in Coláiste Bhríde. Our hurling team qualified for a Leinster Semi-final following a good south Leinster win over Ferrybank CC from Kilkenny.

Unfortunately, they came up against a strong side from St. Patrick's Navan in the semi-final and despite some great hurling, were not victorious on the day.

Our football team also had a great year. Victories in the early rounds over St Kevin's Dunlavin, Scoil Conglais Baltinglass and CCA Kilcoole led to qualification for the Wicklow A final which was played in Echelon Park Aughrim against St Kevin's Dunlavin. This looked like a tight game on paper and so it proved.



COLÁISTE BHRÍDE

LEVEL KNOWLEDGE

INTERACTION

SPORT

Coláiste Bhríde started better with a goal but by half time the scores were level 2-5 to 1-8. The Coláiste Bhríde side started the 2nd half well, scoring four unanswered points and then added a goal to give them a good lead. Dunlavin came back with a goal and a penalty soon after which turned the game on its head. Coláiste Bhríde worked themselves into a good lead again before Dunlavin struck for their 4th major. The Carnew lads dug in and kept themselves ahead finishing strongly and taking the win on a 5-10 to 4-10 scoreline. Well done to these fine young men who worked hard all year to ensure back to back 1st Year football championships .



Golf

Coláiste Bhríde held its inaugural student golf competition in Coollattin Golf club on Tuesday May 6th. The competition was split into two categories, those with Golf Ireland club handicaps and those with no handicap. We were blessed to have great weather, as over forty golfers took part in all. The scoring was excellent on what is a beautifully presented course. A huge thanks to everyone in Coollattin golf club and in The Darach Bistro for hosting us on the day. A special thanks also to Lady Captain and our former principal Linda Dunne for sponsoring our lovely new perpetual trophy for the overall winner.

RESULTS:

Category 1:

- 1st: Eddie Cullen (21) - 49 points
- 2nd: Colman O Byrne (31) - 48 points
- 3rd: Jack Sheridan (26) - 45 points

Category 2:

- 1st: Paidí Butler (36) - 46 points
- 2nd: Harry Buttle (36) - 41 points

SELF HELP AFRICA



Self Help Africa Trip

Our Journey to The Gambia: Sustainability, Community, and Resilience (Rosealice Byrne, Seren Byrne and Ms Walsh)



Our recent trip to The Gambia was an unforgettable experience, offering valuable lessons in sustainability, food security, and community empowerment. We explored initiatives that are transforming lives, such as the Self-Help Africa Development Garden, where apprentices learn how to farm sustainably, and the Kalagi Women's Garden, which provides financial independence to over one hundred women through organic onion farming and composting.

At Kartong, we visited the integrated climate-adaptation and community resilience-building projects lead by the Self Help Africa team. We witnessed how women use innovative "rack-culture" techniques to sustainably harvest oysters while protecting vital mangrove ecosystems. Their efforts not only support biodiversity but also strengthen communities against the impact of climate change.

At The Gambian College we were afforded the opportunity to engage with agricultural students and students studying public health. As part of the study of agriculture, students had a hands-on learning approach as they completed projects based on their abilities to cultivate various crops. The public-health students presented their final year project ideas, as they are preparing to serve rural communities by administering vaccines and promoting hygiene practices.



These hands-on learning approaches mirror Ireland's own emphasis on practical agricultural education and public health outreach.

Throughout our journey, we saw first-hand how climate change is affecting Gambian communities. However, the resilience and determination of the people we met with was truly inspiring. Organisations like Self-Help Africa play a crucial role in supporting farmers, promoting sustainable agriculture, and empowering women.

This experience reminded us of the importance of sustainable practices both in The Gambia and at home. As we reflect on our trip, we are more committed than ever to advocate for environmental sustainability and community-driven solutions.

Thank you to everyone who made this journey possible!!



Agricultural Science Trip



This term, our 6th year Agricultural Science classes made a trip to Kildalton Agricultural College for Agri Aware's Farm Walk and Talk series.

The purpose of the day was to make first hand connections with the concepts of animal husbandry, farm safety, grassland management and horticulture.

Staff of the college were on hand to answer questions.

AWARDS

University Entrance Scholarship Awards

Congratulations to Darcy Phelan and Eimear Murphy (Leaving Cert Class of 2024) who were rewarded for their excellent Leaving Certificate results.

Darcy Phelan was among the recipients of the UCD Entrance Scholarships for 2024. He was presented with his award at a special ceremony in O'Reilly Hall, UCD, on Friday 7th February. Ms Gahan accepted a special plaque for the school.



Eimear Murphy was awarded the prestigious Entrance Exhibition Award from Trinity College Dublin on Tuesday 21st January. These awards are presented to students who achieve the highest points among Trinity entrants from their school.

We wish both Eimear and Darcy well as they pursue their third level studies.



Centre for Talented Youth of Ireland

Congratulations to Kyla Sankaran 2nd year, who was recently offered a place in the DCU Centre for Talented Youth of Ireland residential programme for this summer.

Kyla undertook academic aptitude assessments as part of the selection process. She will be studying the area of architecture during the summer.

This is an amazing opportunity for Kyla and we wish her all the very best with the programme.



LIFE AWARDS

Pi Math Quiz

Twenty 3rd year students travelled to Glenart College, Arklow to take part in the Maths Teachers' Association Pi Quiz. The five teams battled it out through eight rounds of challenging questions. The team of Ruairc Healy, Alex Sweetman McDonald, Liam Kenny and Alex Bailey finished with an excellent score, qualifying for the tie-breaker and ensuring second place overall. A huge achievement for these wonderful mathematicians.



TY Mini Company represents Co Wicklow at National Final



Well done to Daniel Duffy and Dominic O'Loughlin who with their company Vest Pro, were awarded overall senior category winners of the Wicklow Student Enterprise Awards 2025. They advanced to the National final in

Mullingar in May where they pitched their business idea against schools from all thirty-two counties. Daniel and Dominic presented their business plan to the judges during their interview and impressed with their unique sales pitch and expansive target market base. Well done to both students who represented their school and county on the national stage, a great experience for them both.



Grúpa Cheoil Success at the Wesley Interschools Music Competition.

Twelve members of our traditional music group travelled to Dublin on Saturday for their second appearance at the prestigious Wesley Interschools Music Competition.

Competing against nearly twenty secondary schools from across the country, the group secured an impressive second place.



Each ensemble performed a continuous selection of arranged traditional music, and judge Dr. Robert Harvey noted that the difference between first and second place was minimal. The top honour went to St. Patrick's College Cavan, with Carnew coming in close second position with just one mark between the groups.

The judge was particularly impressed with their effective and harmonies and arrangements.

Charity Easter Raffle

Congratulations to Jessica Harte Murphy (TY) who having completed her work experience at the Irish Horse Welfare Centre in Woodenbridge, Co. Wicklow, decided to raise some much-needed funds for the charity on her return to school.

Jessica raised €630 from an Easter Hamper raffle which was added to €200 from the school's Re-turn bottle money this term. Jessica was able to present €830 to the charity in school recently.

We hope that the funds raised will help meet the costs of looking after abandoned and neglected horses in the centre.



LCVP Trip

As part of their LCVP course, 5th year students completed a visit to Carnew Mart. They had a very informative talk about both Carnew Mart and Quinn Property from owners Eilish, David and Jack Quinn

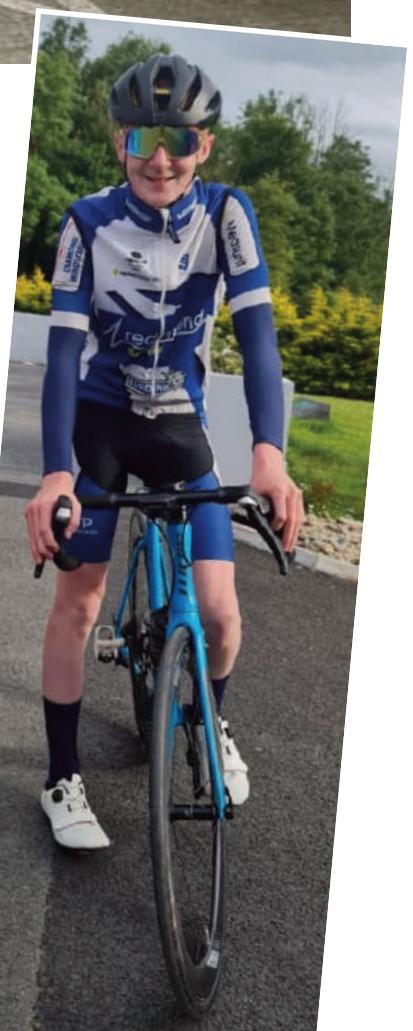


Third Level Sports Scholarship

Congratulations to Harry O'Keeffe who was presented with a sports scholarship by ATU Sligo recently.

Harry has had phenomenal achievements in cycling over the years and has represented the Irish team abroad.

We wish Harry continued success in his sport and his studies in Health Science and Physiology at ATU Sligo.



Money Smarts Challenge

Well done to the three teams from 5th year who took part in the Money Smarts Challenge on Wednesday March 26th. The competition consisted of seven rounds of questions based around money matters and general knowledge.



Congratulations to Holly Brennan, Olivia Shannon, Calum Gregan, Ben Neville, Aine Moran, Maeve Tallon, Cormac Murphy, Evan Byrne, Cerys Byrne, Ross Whelan, Grace Togher and Faye Lancaster.

Sponsored Tractor Run

Our annual tractor run was a huge success this year with over thirty tractors assembling in the school bus park. The students involved raised over €2,000 for two worthy causes: The Alzheimer Society of Ireland and Embrace FARM, a farming support charity. We extend our gratitude to all who participated in or supported our charity event this year.





IMTA Senior Cycle Maths Quiz

Well done to the eight sixth year students who represented Coláiste Bhríde in the regional round of the IMTA senior cycle Maths quiz at Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy.

TEAM ONE

Billy Hurney, Nathan Finucane, Rebecca Byrne and Aisling Fleming

TEAM TWO

Jack Whelan, Chloe Roberts, Rachel Dee and Jack Burke.

Both teams had excellent performances throughout the eight rounds.

In fact, Team 2 were outright leaders with two rounds to go, only to be pipped at the final hurdle.

Maths Relay 2025

A group of TYs helped to run our annual problem-solving relay for first years. Each base class was represented each week by a team of four students (which changed from week to week).

Students had to work together as a team to solve each of five problems over the course of each session.

There was a great sense of excitement and competition each week. This competition really provided first years with a great opportunity to build on their problem-solving skills and to work as a team. The winning team was presented with a perpetual plaque at the school awards.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Meitheal Leader Activities

Our current first years have been very fortunate to have such a wonderful group of 6th year Meitheal leaders to offer them support and guidance for the year.

Our Meitheal leaders have had a daily presence at roll call to help first years with any issues as well as providing emotional support and reassurance to any students they felt needed the extra bit of attention. They also encouraged students to get involved with extra-curricular activities and to do their best in class.

Lunchtime activities took place every second week for base classes, these were well planned to encourage students to get to know each other and to encourage team building skills and bonding amongst students.

Our Meitheal leaders attended a special presentation ceremony in the Riverside Park Hotel Enniscorthy on the 21st January where they were presented with their recognition certificates to mark the contributions in support of first year students.



Meitheal leaders:

Allie O'Shea, Amber Lehane, Ellen Doyle, Ellie Dolan, Fionan D'Arcy, Hannah Lyons, Isabelle Kate Doyle, Jessica McErlean, Kate Dolan, Lauren Myers, Ros O Tuama, Rosealice Byrne, Ruth O'Gormain, Seren Byrne, Shanna-May Brennan.

Missing from Photo: Ros O'Tuama, Ruth O'Gormain

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We had a wonderful maths relay over five weeks in the last term, with the help of TY maths students. This created great excitement and competition amongst both our first years and Meitheal leaders. Every student in first year participated in this problem-solving competition, working in teams of four against all other base classes to solve problems.

Our Meitheal leaders experienced training during the year and this really served to enhance their leadership skills and increase awareness of issues facing our young students and how to respond.

They have set the bar very high for our incoming leaders for the new school year. We wish them the very best in their chosen career paths and studies as they leave our school.

Senior Prefects 2024/2025



As another academic year draws to a close, it is the perfect time to reflect on the invaluable contribution made by our senior prefect team. This group of dedicated students have gone above and beyond in their roles, demonstrating exceptional leadership, compassion, and teamwork throughout the year.

One of the most notable aspects of the senior prefects' work has been their commitment to supporting the second-year students in our school community. From the very first term, they have taken an active role in welcoming new pupils, organising icebreaker sessions, and offering guidance during those important early weeks of adjustment. Their approachable and caring nature has helped foster a positive, inclusive atmosphere where younger students feel valued and supported.

Beyond their work with students, the senior prefects have been an indispensable support to both management and teachers throughout the year. Whether helping to run parent-teacher meetings, assisting at open days, or representing the school at community events, they have consistently stepped up when needed. Their professionalism and reliability have made them trusted allies for staff, and their contribution has not gone unnoticed.

In every aspect of their role, the senior prefects have shown what it means to lead with integrity and kindness. Their hard work, commitment, and ability to inspire those around them have left a lasting impact on our school, and we are immensely grateful for everything they have done this year.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Student Council

The Student Council has had another busy year and are proud of the work they do to ensure the student voice is heard in our school. Grace from Focus Ireland visited our school on May 7th and we presented her with a cheque for €1,226 which was raised from our sleepover in October. We also proudly supported our two local Darkness Into Light walks in Carnew and Tinahely this year.

We are fortunate to have a supportive and open-minded management team in Coláiste Bhríde who always make time to hear our ideas and advise us on the best course of action. Ellie and Adam presented recently at a Parents' Association meeting and gave an account of how much the Student Council has meant to them over the course of their six years in school.

They also presented a report to the Board of Management which was a very positive experience. We wish our sixth-year students well as they head for pastures new and thank them for their dedication and hard work on the council.

Adam, Ellie, Kate, Julie, Allie, Joe and Maryann, we will miss you and we wish you every success and happiness in life.

Also, a massive thank you to Adam and Ellie for their inspirational leadership this year.



The student council has made lots of progress in school this term. We held a Spelling Bee for the first to third year students in April. We introduced a new 6th year queue in the canteen. We added stationary for students in the Tuck shop, at a low cost. Lastly, we are working on adding clearer bin signage to help improve recycling. Thank you so much for the support this year!

Adam & Ellie

Chairperson Adam O'Neill

Vice-Chairperson Ellie Dolan

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer.



ERASMUS+

Home Economics Erasmus Trip to Sorrento

This year thirty-four third- and sixth-year students travelled to Sorrento on a Home Economics cultural exchange this term. The students enjoyed five days in the Italian sun while experiencing a range of Home Economics related activities. They spent two evenings at a cookery school where they made homemade pizza and gnocchi. They enjoyed their own cooking and tasted some local cuisine, including tiramisu and bruschetta. Students also enjoyed a cheese demonstration and participated in a gelato making course. One evening was spent bowling in Naples. Students explored the markets on St. Valentine's Day and watched the procession through the streets of Sorrento which took place to honour Saint Anthony.

A trip to Pompeii and a guided tour around the archaeological site was the highlight for many. We look forward to many more Home Economics trips in the future and are grateful for how accessible such trips have become because of our Erasmus+ funding.



Erasmus+

This project is funded by the European Union.



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA
CHILL DARA AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN
KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

French Exchange

In March 2025, we welcomed the French students to Ireland for the return leg of the exchange. They stayed with Irish host families and joined our students in classes at school. This gave them a taste of the Irish school experience and the chance to practise their English. The French group also visited several of Dublin's most iconic attractions, including Trinity College and the Book of Kells, Kilmainham Gaol and Croke Park. They also enjoyed a walk through St Stephen's Green and explored the streets of Temple Bar.

Once again, the exchange was a great success this year and as always was a valuable experience for all involved. Our exchange programme each year helps students to develop their language skills and also fosters cross-cultural understanding and lasting friendships. Coláiste Bhríde's Erasmus+ Accreditation status and the associated grant continue to significantly subsidise the cost of the exchange to families.



German Exchange

The Irish leg of the German Exchange took place at the end of March. The group was blessed with some spring sunshine as they enjoyed outings to Croke Park, Wicklow Gaol, and Glendalough. A real highlight was the farewell party, where our school's traditional music group performed to the great delight of both the Irish and German students. Although some tears were shed at the departure, the students were content knowing new friendships had been formed.



Our John Paul II Award students have been making a real difference in their communities this year. From helping out in their local parishes to volunteering in a variety of settings, they have generously given their time and energy to help others.

We commend their commitment and compassion.



Rather be Reading

Rather be Reading 2024/25

In May 2024, we were delighted to be awarded the 'Readers for Life' award in recognition of the work undertaken in the school to promote reading among our school community.

This year, fourteen eager readers joined our Rather be Reading (RBR) group to continue the important work in this area. Students organised regular initiatives such as our 'Word of the Week' and our monthly 'Drop Everything And Read' sessions. The class also was busy in our community, hanging up posters highlighting the importance of reading in local shops and restaurants. We were also delighted to have been invited to local primary schools and to Carnew Nursing Home. We created some reading and spelling-based workshops in Carnew National school and we hosted the students from All Saints' National School on World Book Day for a quiz. We visited Carnew Nursing Home on a number of occasions this year and greatly enjoyed hearing from the residents and sharing our favourite books with them.

For World Book Day 2025, we hosted activities and quizzes in the library at break and then ran a school-wide quiz over the school intercom. It was great fun and it was great to see students work together as a class to come up with answers.

We also created a section in our library which we stocked with dyslexia friendly books in a section we call 'Books for Everyone'. This has been extremely popular and we hope to expand this section next year.

Our year ended with a trip to Dublin and a visit to the National Art Gallery and then Marsh's Library. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support this year.

Happy reading everyone!

GUIDANCE

Guidance Update

What a rollercoaster since Christmas! It has been decisions and choices all the way. A new year always means new beginnings and 6th, 3rd and TY students made important life choices. CAO applications were submitted and 3rd and TY students made important decisions about their Leaving Cert when they decided on their senior cycle options. Not forgetting our incoming 1st year students who will join us in August – an information night was held for 6th class pupils and their parents in January. We look forward to working with our new 1st years and wish them every personal and educational success here in Coláiste Bhríde.



We are forever indebted to local employers and business people who take on our TY, LCA and LCVP students for their work experience programmes. Students experienced a wide and diverse range of work placements including education, health, pharmaceutical companies, medical, business, administration and defence.

Twenty senior students undertook a Safe Pass course in conjunction with Synergy Risk Management Ltd. Former past student, Corporal Ronan Cogley met with 5th year students on careers in the Defence Forces. Kevin Fahy JLO met with TY and 2nd year students on the misuse of substance abuse and road safety.

Now, it is all about change of mind, flying the coop and realising dreams for our 6th year students. *We look forward to hearing great things about you all in the years to come.*



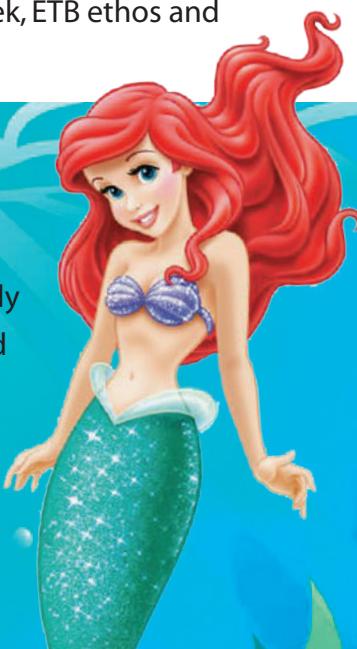
ETB Ethos

The word 'ethos' is used to describe the beliefs, values and practices underpinning the life of any school. ETB schools are state, co-educational, multi-denominational schools underpinned by the core values of: Excellence in Education, Care, Equality, Community and Respect. Here at Coláiste Bhríde we live out the values underpinning the ETB ethos in a meaningful way by creating experiences and opportunities for students to flourish and develop both inside and outside the classroom. This year we created a calendar of events for the whole school to participate in starting with friendship week, mental health awareness week, Anti-bullying Awareness Week, Think Languages, 'CBC Celebrates' week, everyday counts month, safer internet week, Seachtain na Gaeilge, mother languages week, World Book Day, Women in Sport Week, red flag against racism, neurodiversity week, ETB ethos and wellbeing week.

School Musical

This March over 100 students braved the audition process for a role in our upcoming musical, Disney's The Little Mermaid. The talent on display was extremely impressive and the excitement was palpable. Our show will once again be directed by Ms Sinéad Finlay, ably assisted by newcomer to the team Ms Yvette Deacon. We are also delighted to announce Mr Richard O'Toole as our Music Director, a past pupil and an accomplished actor who needs no introduction.

So, grab your flippers and armbands and join us Under the Sea, this **December 11th, 12th and 13th.**





SUMMER SERENADE 2025: A JOYFUL CELEBRATION OF MUSIC AND TALENT.

Coláiste Bhríde's Music Department brought the school year to a joyful close with Summer Serenade 2025, an evening brimming with music, energy and heart. With over ninety students taking part, the concert was a vibrant celebration of talent, teamwork and dedication.

The evening began with great excitement as MC Mr. Brennan welcomed the audience and introduced the school band. The infectious rhythm of Jagerlatin set the tone, followed by crowd favourites I Want to Hold Your Hand, Sweet Caroline, and Just a Closer Walk with Thee. Under the direction of Ms. Glynn and tutor Mr. Dunne, the band closed the night on a high with a rousing performance of The Wexford March.

The choir then brought a touching change of pace with moving performances of Hallelujah, At Last, and Remember Me, beautifully accompanied by Mr. Callanan and Holly Brennan.

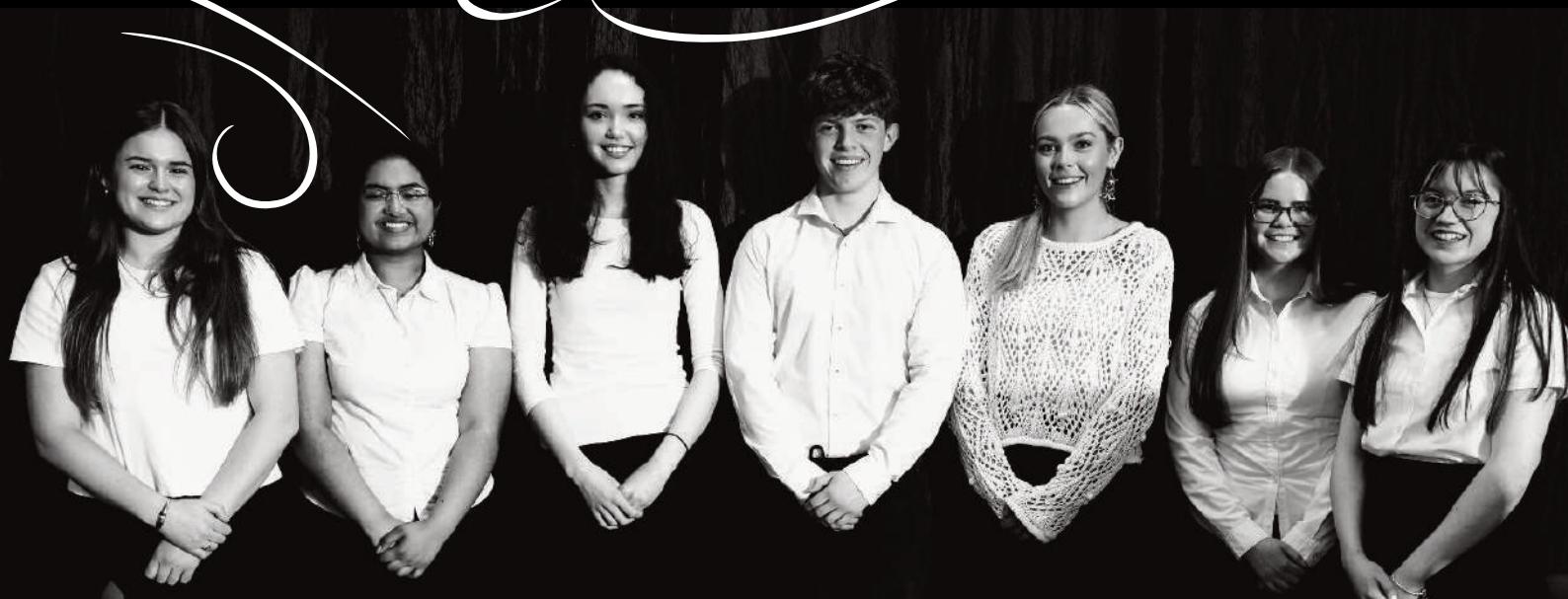
The traditional Irish music group, led by Deputy Principal Mr. Somers, filled the hall with toe-tapping jigs and reels, bringing an authentic and joyful energy to the night.

A standout moment came from the Leaving Certificate Music class. Instrumental pieces by Áine McMahon, Rosealice Byrne, and Rós Ó Tuama showcased their skill and poise, while Sarvani Kasibhatla and Sophia Lowe delivered a heartfelt duet of Change by Lana Del Rey. Jessica Murphy followed with a powerful rendition of The Winner Takes It All, leaving a lasting impression.

The evening also honoured the achievements of the school's senior musicians. The new Choir Student of the Year award was jointly awarded to Sophia Lowe and Sarvani Kasibhatla, presented by Mr. Brennan. Mr. Somers presented Traditional Musician of the Year to Keelin Molloy, and Band Person of the Year went to Maeve Tallon, presented by former principal Mrs. Linda Dunne.



MUSIC



In her closing remarks, Ms. Teresa Glynn thanked students, staff, and parents for their support and praised the students' passion and commitment to music, which continue to enrich school life.

With a band trip to perform in Italy planned for October and a Christmas concert scheduled for December 4th, the future of music at Coláiste Bhríde looks brighter than ever.



SciFest 2025

Congratulations to all the participants in the Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew SciFest@Schools competition. Our judges were highly impressed by the relevance, creativity, and insightfulness of the projects presented. Once again, the high standard of entries made it a difficult task to choose the overall winner and finalists, a true reflection of the remarkable talent on display.

A total of fifty-three unique projects were entered on the day, with no two alike, showcasing a broad range of topics and excellent application of scientific principles—something all judges highlighted in their feedback.

Students	Teacher	Project Title	Award
Ruby Gregan Milly Gregan	Ms. Lauren Byrne	Investigating the Effect of Fast Fashion Dye on the Growth of Plants	Overall Winner
Cameron Delaney	Ms. Aimee Walsh	Powering Education with Solar Energy	Overall Winner
Lily Moss Doyle Faye McGuinness	Ms. Lauren Byrne	Testing the Effects of Micro Needling on Skin Using Fruit	Class Winner
Georga Rossiter Abbie O'Goram	Ms. Dayna Lancaster	How Sound and Music Effect Animal Behaviour	Class Winner
Sophie Cullen Abby Breen Liadan Agnew	Ms. Miriam Rickerby	Effect of Fashion on Nails	Class Winner
Cassie O'Byrne Caoimhe Kinsella	Mr. Jonathon Gleeson	5 Second Rule	Class Winner
Myron Davidson Fíach Byrne Rodrigo Calderon	Ms. Suzanne Eivers	How Footwear Changes Your Stride	Class Winner
James Gregan Conor Faulkner	Ms. Aimee Walsh	Breaking Tradition: Is Bamboo the New Ash	Class Winner

Due to the exceptional quality of work, the Overall Winner title was shared by two outstanding projects. Ruby Gregan and Millie Gregan impressed with their investigation, "Investigating the Effect of Fast Fashion Dye on the Growth of Plants", while Cameron Delaney stood out with his project, "Powering Education with Solar Energy". Both projects stood above the rest thanks to their excellent data analysis and high-quality presentations.

Other standout projects and competitors who captured the judge's attention and earned top recognition in their respective class groups are listed in the table below.

Congratulations to our outstanding students who proudly represented Coláiste Bhríde at SciFest@College in DCU. Transition Year students, joined by Calvin Matthews (2nd Year) and Odhran D'Arcy (1st Year), showcased an impressive fifteen projects across a wide range of scientific disciplines. Each group presented their research to the judges, who were thoroughly impressed by their investigations.

A special commendation was presented to Odhran D'Arcy, who earned the Technology Merit Award for his innovative reaction time testing app, featured in his project "Speed Trials: The Farmer vs. The Gamer." Congratulations also to Ruby and Millie Gregan awarded Runner-Up Best Project Award for their project titled "Investigating the Effect of Fast Fashion Dye on the Growth of Plants." The sisters have been invited to compete at the Scifest National Finals in September.



Gaelbhratach i gColáiste Bhríde, "Beatha teanga í a labhaint"

Bhí ócáid speisialta ann i gColáiste Mhuire Gan Smál, Luimneach, nuair a bronnadh Gaelbhratach ar Choláiste Bhríde, Carn an Bhua don chéad uair riamh. Seo an chéad bliain don scoil páirt a ghlacadh agus bronnadh an Gaelbhratach ar Holly Brennan (Rúnaí) agus Keelin Molloy (Cathaoirleach) ar son an choiste agus ar son na scoile. Táimid thar a bheith bródúil as an gcoiste go léir a rinne obair na carpall i rith na bliana agus a rinne sár-iarrachta chun an Ghaeilge a spreagadh agus a neartú timpeall na scoile. D'oibrigh na daltaí go dian dícheallach ag am lóin i rith na bliana chun imeachtaí a eagrú do dhaltaí na scoile. Tá an-obair go deo déanta ag na daltaí seo agus molann muid go hard na spéire iad. Comhghairdeas libh ar fad.



This was the first year that Coláiste Bhríde took part in the Gaelbhratach scheme. The goal of the scheme is to inspire the use of Irish, not only in the classroom, but also as a "teanga labhartha" around the school. There is a huge emphasis on communicative Irish. A Gaelbhratach is awarded in recognition of the schools' efforts. We were delighted when two of our committee members, Cathaoirleach, Keelin Molloy and Rúnaí, Holly Brennan travelled to Coláiste Mhuire Gan Smál to collect our very first Gaelbhratach.

Coláiste Bhríde awarded Amber Flag

We were delighted to learn this term that Coláiste Bhríde has been awarded our 7th Amber Flag from Pieta House. This flag is awarded to schools and organisations for their promotion of positive mental health. This award was very much a whole school project and was the result of much collaboration of school initiatives such as our Student Council, CBC Ethos team, Erasmus + projects and the student body.





YSI - Young Social Innovators

During the Easter holidays, Minister for Education Helen McEntee announced changes to the Junior Cycle (JC) bands and credited our YSI class 'Take a Stand, Change the Band' for this change.

It is an unbelievable achievement to think that this class of 31 students has changed the JC grading system for 73,000 students this year and many, many more to come.

Young people are amazing and can achieve anything if they fight hard enough and our project is evidence of this. It has not been a simple journey though and the class has had to fight every step of the way. Our journey started the day that our class received their JC results and we noted the mixed reaction among our class. Students found the merit bracket especially frustrating due to how wide it was (55%-74%) leaving students unsure as to how they actually performed in the exam. This started a class conversation which lead to the birth of our project.

Seven months later we succeeded in putting enough pressure on the minister to have the grade brackets changed. The top four grades are now equally separated by 15%. In essence, the changes were relatively small and the brackets remain much broader than at Leaving Certificate level which are separated by 10%. Students still do not have access to the percentages attained in each subject or have easy access to their corrected scripts. So, our fight continues.

The YSI must be applauded for their dedication and hard work. They have been in numerous paper articles, have been on Southeast Radio three times and lead a much publicised protest at Leinster House.

The group would like to say a massive thank you to our entire school community for their support and good wishes over the course of our project. Eoin Mac Raghnaill reporter for the Wicklow People, Jessica Casey Irish Examiner reporter and Lucinda and Alan in South East radio have helped us so much.

The next stop is hopefully the Dáil Education Committee. We have a submission ready to go.

Rubbish Film Festival

TY students from the art class participated in the Rubbish Film Festival, an event dedicated to promoting environmental awareness and sustainability through the medium of film.



It is renowned for showcasing compelling stories and innovative filmmaking that highlights global and local environmental issues. It offers a platform for young filmmakers, environmentalists, and school communities to come together to explore and discuss the pressing environmental challenges of our time, including climate change, pollution, and conservation efforts.



The one-minute films and posters, developed and produced by students from all over Wicklow, were of an extremely high standard and students were commended for their hard work and dedication to the programme. The Coláiste Bhríde group's film was shown on the TY Celebration evening.

TY Drama

On the 31st of January, Coláiste Bhríde was proud to present this year's TY drama productions - "Grannies and Gardai" and "10 things I Hate about You". Our current crop of aspiring actors and crew worked tirelessly to rehearse and prepare for both productions. The performances were excellent as we gave a platform to the many talents of our budding TY thespians. It was fantastic to see a great crowd support them all on what was a very enjoyable and entertaining night.



Killary

129 TY students travelled to the Killary Fjord on the Galway/Mayo border for 4 days of outdoor adventure activities on Tuesday, 25th March. They participated in a variety of group activities including gorge walking, giant SUP, aerial park, turf challenge, Killary challenge, raft building, archery, orienteering and climbing tower while also engaging in evening activities.

This included a drumming workshop and a Céilí, as well as board games and a quiz. At the end of a fantastic week, Killary Adventure Centre staff agreed to host a bonfire for our students. This is not something Killary do on a regular basis and was outside the contract hours of some of their staff who volunteered to supervise. This is a clear indication of how pleasant and cooperative these students were as a group for the duration of the week.



Law Trip to the Central Criminal Court

On Thursday, 19th December and Monday 28th April, 47 of our Transition Year students had the opportunity to visit the Central Criminal Courts of Justice in Dublin.

The aim of the trip was to provide the students with a greater understanding of the Irish courts system. Students had the opportunity to partake in a mock trial facilitated by a barrister of the Courts Service. This allowed them to fulfil various courtroom roles including a judge, barristers, solicitors, witnesses, and members of the jury. In addition, our students and teachers were fortunate enough to sit in on actual court proceedings.

A truly worthwhile and eye-opening experience!





Term 3 Activities

Since the end of February, our Tuesday activity groups embarked on new activities. These have included hill walking, gym, basketball/badminton and tennis. Students also got an opportunity to complete the obstacle course in the week before Easter. Walks included Sliabh Bhúi, the Coolmeelagh Loops, Askamore and Shrue.

Active Schools Flag

This year our ASF class decided on four objectives:

- To organise and run our Launch event – Obstacle Course
- To increase knowledge and use of Walkway further
- To investigate and run a Colour Run during Active Week
- To run a Monthly themes campaign highlighting keys facts relating to physical activity, health and wellbeing.

The group did great work with the obstacle course all set up for each PE class. The group had a dedicated station for walkway activities which was used by teachers with students.

The class acted as stewards and timekeepers for the Teachers v Students Tractor Relay which took place on Thursday, 15th May.



Fighting Words Workshops

The Fighting Words programme is a series of creative writing workshops run in Arklow Library. The programme helps and encourages students of all ages to develop their writing skills and to explore their love of writing.

The aim of the programme is to use the practice of writing and storytelling, to strengthen teenagers to be resilient and creative. All TY classes had the opportunity to travel and avail of the programme this year.



TYs attend Youth Biodiversity Conference

On Wednesday, 2nd April, TY students attended the inaugural West Wicklow Youth Biodiversity Conference, hosted by Blessington Community College.

Hosted by RTÉ Radios' Ruth Scott, students engaged with talks from experts such as biologist and author Éanna ní Lamhna, Maynooth University's Dr. Jim Carolan and EcoEye's Anja Murray. We look forward to collaborating with the associated schools on our ongoing biodiversity journey.



Work Experience

The opportunity for a young person to engage in a particular career that they hope to pursue after their third level studies is an opportunity to see first-hand how the world of work operates. One hundred and thirty innovative, enterprising and ambitious TY students undertook work experience from February 10th – 14th, experience which reflected their career aspirations. Our transition year students scaled many heights on their work experience placements. They volunteered to the needy, catalogued books, audited accounts, administered prescriptions, work shadowed surgical procedures, nursed the sick, taught the young, listened to the needy, protected the locality, massaged the aches, wrote computer programs, designed houses, interior designed mansions, concocted medicines, assisted vets, engineered the future, beautified the vain to name but a few. Many students also availed of doing additional work experience over the mid-term break.

We are indebted to all the professionals who gave their time to our TY students. Students travelled both locally and nationally and one student was fortunate to travel to the USA. Students were given meaning to their career aspirations. For the foreseeable future there will be a large group of TY students seeking work experience and we are indebted to professionals both locally and afar who so willingly work with our students. Hopefully the TY students were inspired and gained a positive insight to the working world of 2025, and this will aid them on a possible career direction for 2027!



Digital Portfolios

Students worked hard on their Digital Portfolios all year with the date of submission closing at the start of May. Digital Portfolios provide an opportunity for students to catalogue their many experiences and achievements throughout the TY year and allow them reflect on the progress they made on the goals identified at the start of the year.

The results of their endeavours are very impressive. Class teachers have assessed the work submitted and chosen winners in each class and an overall year group winner.

Prizes were presented at our TY Celebration Evening on the 21st of May.

Gaisce Walk

On Thursday and Friday, the 10th & 11th April, 15 TY students completed the adventure part of their Gaisce President's Award. They trekked from Croghan Moire to Glenmalure on Day 1 and on Day 2 they travelled from Glenmalure to Glendalough around the scenic Wicklow hillsides as part of their Bronze Medal Award. The weather was glorious as they hiked. Students were escorted by their teachers, Ms Tina Walsh and Mr. Robert Fitzgerald.



ANNUAL AWARDS

