

COLÁISTE BHRÍDE

# NEWSLETTER

WINTER EDITION 2024/25



COLÁISTE  
BHRÍDE  
C A R N E W





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## Junior Girls' Football

The Junior girls' football team has enjoyed much success this season so far. In the Wicklow League the girls have recorded comprehensive wins over Coláiste Craobh Abhainn and Dominican College. They will play Coláiste Chill Mhantáin in their last group game in January. Let's hope they make it three out of three!

They have also had great success in the Leinster competition with wins over Loreto, Wexford, Gorey Community School and Presentation, Wexford. The girls topped the group and were victorious against Holy Faith, Newbridge in their Leinster quarter final. They now await details of their Leinster semi-final!





## Senior Ladies' Football

The Senior Ladies Football team triumphed over Dunlavin in the Wicklow 'A' Post Primary Schools Final, marking the eighth consecutive year that the title has returned to Carnew. The team now awaits details of the Semi Final stage of the Leinster competition.



## Transition Year Football

This year marks the inaugural year of a Transition Year Football Competition organised by Wexford LGFA. The competition began with seven schools, and Coláiste Bhríde reached the final where they were narrowly beaten by Loretto Wexford.





## Junior Camogie

The junior camogie team unfortunately did not qualify from their group of the Leinster Junior B championship after losses to Presentation, Wexford and FCJ Bunclody. This was a learning opportunity for the group as many of the panel members are eligible to play for the next two years. There are brighter days ahead for sure.

## Senior Camogie

The senior Camogie team is currently preparing for a Leinster semi final against Johnstown which will be played after Christmas. After a slow start with a loss to Presentation, Wexford in September, the group rallied with a hard fought victory over FCJ, Bunclody in a thrilling local derby and a comprehensive win over Coláiste Bríde, Enniscorthy. They finished the year with a fine victory over Scoil Mhuire, Trim in the Leinster quarter final.





## First Year Boys' Football

The first year squad began their Coláiste Bhríde football careers with a blitz that was held every Wednesday afternoon from September to Halloween. This hotly contested format, organised by our TY future leaders, allowed coaches to survey the talent within the group.

The team travelled to Bunclody to take on FCJ in two friendly yet competitive games, winning one and losing one on the day.

They then competed in the South East Championship, losing to CCM in Wicklow and winning against Creagh College to set up a semi final which will take place after Christmas. In the Wicklow championship they have played one game so far, defeating St Kevin's, Dunlavin in Carnew. We are excited to see how far this talented team can progress after Christmas and indeed beyond.





## U16 Boys' Football

The U16 team has had a successful start to their year. The group defeated Gorey Community School and PDLS, Bagnelstown comprehensively. They are now preparing to play Creagh College, where a victory will see them qualify for the South Leinster Semi-final.



## Senior Boys' Football

Our senior football team has had an interesting start to the footballing year. Earlier this term the panel suffered a convincing loss against St. Kevin's, Dunlavin in the first league game of the Wicklow championship, but since then they have turned their year around. At the stage of writing they have qualified for semi-finals in both the Wicklow Championship where they will face CCA, Kilcoole and the South Leinster Championship, where they will play Tullow Community School. On the way to these semi-finals they overcame Baltinglass, Tyndall College, Carlow and Bagnelstown, Carlow.

Also, possibly for the first time ever Coláiste Bhríde fielded a second senior team. This panel gives younger senior players an opportunity to experience what senior football is all about before they challenge for a place next year on the first team. They had a convincing win against St Kevin's, Dunlavin 'B' team and they look forward to more games in the new year. As always thanks to local clubs for the use of their facilities. Without this our games would not happen.





## SPORT

## Hurling

The junior and senior hurling teams are through to South Leinster semi-finals with both games to take place after Christmas. The junior hurling team had two close and competitive group games against Portlaoise CBS and Creagh College, drawing with Creagh and defeating Portlaoise. They will now face Clane in the semi-final. The senior hurling team began their year with a hard-fought victory over PDLS, Bagenalstown, which was followed by a one point victory over Abbey CC, Ferrybank. They will now go up against Portlaoise CBS looking for a place in the final.



## Hockey

At the start of the year, 1st and 2nd year girls took part in a revival of hockey in the school. With almost fifty students attending training after school every Monday, the girls have put a lot of time, hard work, and dedication into learning the rules of the game and developing their skills. They will begin their journey in the South East Schools League in January. We look forward to following their journey.





## SPORT

## Equestrian



Our equestrian team has had an impressive start to the Interschool League with both the Open and Novice teams consistently earning rosettes at competitions in Wexford, CoilÍóg, Boswell, and JAG Equestrian.

In addition to the team successes, several of our students have excelled individually. Hannah O' Neill, Johnnie Sheppard, Chloe Walsh, Rebecca Dagge, Claire Hill Doyle, Abbie Byrne, Grace Shannon, Alison Byrne, Emily Wafer and Niamh Wafer have frequently been placed in the highly competitive individual league.

A particular highlight of the term was our own league event hosted at Barnadown Equestrian Centre, which saw over 150 riders from schools across the country competing. Our students rose to the occasion, achieving outstanding results on home turf and making the day even more memorable.





# FELIZ NAVIDAD



This year's annual Christmas Concert, aptly called Feliz Navidad, was held in St. Brigid's Hall on Thursday 5th December. The concert band, choir, trad group and soloists performed an eclectic selection of musical pieces which included many seasonal favourites such as White Christmas, Ding Dong Merrily on High and Carol of the Bells. Both the band and choir were conducted by music teacher Ms. Teresa Glynn while Mr. Willie Dunne ensured that band members were at their peak for the show. Deputy principal Mr. Ciarán Somers lead the trad group.

The choral performances on the night were accompanied by teacher Mr. David Callanan on guitar and violinist Holly Brennan. Katie Whelan, Rochelle Ryan and Niamh Kennedy performed a beautiful rendition of Who Would Imagine a King while Erin Gallagher and Megan Ryder performed a heartfelt duet of the well known song The Christmas Waltz. Nine new choir members and thirteen new band members were invited on stage during the concert to make their debut performance.

In what has now become established as a standard feature in the Christmas concert the combined band, choir and trad group gave a rousing rendition of Adeste Fideles with the audience joining in enthusiastically in full voice to provide a memorable conclusion to a wonderful musical extravaganza.







## Green Schools

The Green Schools committee is working on passion projects this year alongside our flag. The current campaign in development is a campaign about the importance of avoiding palm oil in products as much as possible.

They are developing a campaign to create awareness of the destructive nature of palm oil farming and its presence in most products from foods to shampoos. The committee hopes to have to campaign ready for promotion in January.

All 1st Year students attended the 'Bin It! Roadshow' workshop earlier in the term. As part of the Green Schools initiative, the workshop focused on the harmful effects of littering and the importance of proper waste disposal, through a comedy-style show.





# GUIDANCE

## Career Guidance

Firstly, well done to the 2024 Leaving Cert students who excelled in their Leaving Cert examinations. They did themselves proud! Heartiest congratulations to you all.

In September, Ray Langan from "Raising the Game" gave a very impressive seminar to 6th and 3rd year students in St. Brigid's Hall on effective study techniques for their busy year ahead. Ray also gave an evening seminar to parents.

6th year students visited the 'World Skills and Trade Fair' and The Irish Times Higher Options Exhibition in the RDS in September where more than seventy Irish and European colleges showcased their courses of study. In November the CAO information night for parents took place to empower parents to help their child to make the right decisions pertaining to their CAO application. Many students have visited college open days.



3rd years have received information on subject and programme selection. A lot of thinking and investigating needs to be done in January, in order to make the right decision.



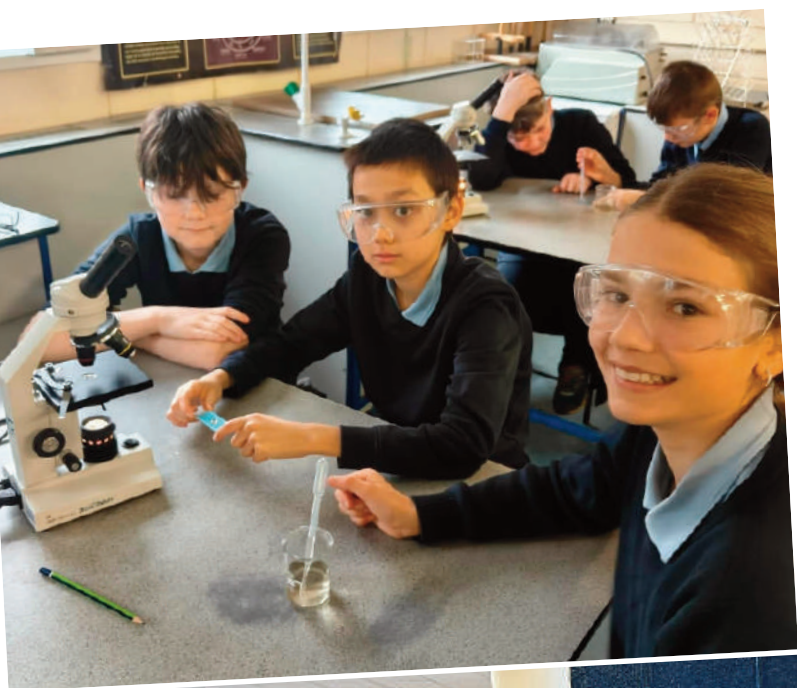
## College Visits:

We welcomed SOLAS to Coláiste Bhríde in late November. SOLAS facilitated a morning session for parents which proved very worthwhile.

TYs visited the DCU open day on November 17th. It was a wonderful experience for students to see first-hand the college experience.



# SCIENCE



## Science

6th class students from Scoil Aodan Naofa 6th class visited the school during Science Week 2024 to learn about the three disciplines of Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

First years took part in a project where they made their own Science models as part of their Christmas exams. They were required to design a 3D project on a human cell. Prizes were awarded for the winning projects.



Leaving Certificate Agricultural Science Speaker Professor Tommy Boland from UCD visited our 5th and 6th year Ag Science students this term. He spoke about the three pillars of sustainability: environmental, economic, and social.

He also outlined the undergraduate opportunities in UCD and career opportunities in agriculture.







The Science department organised a visit by the National Reptile Zoo.

All first years enjoyed a one hour lecture which provided details on a variety of different reptiles.

They had the opportunity to handle a range of reptiles such as boa constrictors, milk snakes, blue tongue lizard, Colombian rainbow boa, Frill Dragons, tarantulas, turtles and tortoises.



## John Paul II Awards

Congratulations to Holly Brennan (5th Year) who received the prestigious Gold John Paul II Award from Bishop Ger Nash at a special celebration in Enniscorthy Cathedral in November.

This award celebrates Holly's dedication, compassion, and commitment to faith and service within our community. A fantastic achievement.

*Well done, Holly!*



## Enterprise Visit

On Thursday 21st November our fifth year LCVP class visited ProAmpac where they were introduced to the production lines and the range of products that they manufacture.

It was amazing to see the many familiar wrappers at the production stage.

## 5th Year Art Presentation

On Friday 15th November, Eliza Dolan and Faye Mulroe, 5th year, presented Mr. Tobin with paintings inspired by artist Eoin O'Connor.





## Anti-Bullying Week

Our Leaving Certificate Applied students organised a first year poster competition as part of their general education task.

Prize winners were as follows:

- Billi Bannon, 1 Beech
- Nadia Zambrucka, 1 Oak
- Megan Dalton, 1 Pine
- Maria Lancaster, 1 Ash
- Aileen Mulhall, 1 Elm
- Bonnie Bulter, 1 Beech  
(overall winner)



## Visit from Storyteller

Coláiste Bhríde was delighted to welcome renowned storyteller Niall de Burca to St. Brigid's Hall where he captivated 1st, 2nd, TY and 5th year students with spooky stories and motivating tales. He also spoke to Ms. Heffernan's LCVP class about his

experience of being an entrepreneur and his advice to anyone considering working for themselves. We look forward to welcoming Niall back in the future and we thank him for sharing his wonderful stories with us.

## History Trip

The Leaving Certificate History class visited Avondale House, the home of Charles Stewart Parnell who is a key personality on their Irish History course. The students had a guided tour of the house and learned a lot more about Parnell's family life.

It was a very enjoyable trip and equipped the students well with additional material on Parnell that they can now use in their upcoming Leaving Certificate exam.





## Mental Health Awareness

On the 10th October we celebrated World Mental Health Day in Coláiste Bhríde to raise awareness of the importance of talking about our wellbeing and mental health, reaching out when we need help and ways to support positive mental health.

During the week, students practised meditation and completed a lesson in SPHE on Taking Notice, Being Active, Connecting with others, Giving and Keep Learning.



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## SVP Food Appeal

A sincere thank you to our students, their families, and staff for their generosity to the recent St. Vincent de Paul appeal for the Carnew and Tinahely areas.

A special thanks to our amazing TY students who volunteered their time to organise and deliver the boxes: Milly Gregan, Ruby Gregan, Sarah Jennings, Georga Rossiter, Ella Hayes, Alan Carroll, Aoibheann Buttle and Kate Doran.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh as bhur bhflaithiúlacht!





# LEADERSHIP

## Senior Prefects



*Holly Brennan, Ali Byrne, Pearse Byrne, Ruby-Joe Byrne, Sophia Connor, Amy Cowman, Sally Dempsey, Erin Donlan, Orla Doyle, Sophia Fox, Calum Gregan, Ava Hilliard, Faye Lancaster, Jessie Martin, Àine McDonald, Keelin Molloy, Grace Mulhall, Ben Neville, Hannah O'Neill, Sophie Penston, Grace Togher, Aoife Wafer, Summer Walker.*

This term, our twenty one senior prefects have gone above and beyond in their roles as responsible mentors to the second year students. Through patience, empathy, and leadership, they have provided guidance, support, and encouragement, helping to create a positive and inclusive school environment.

From offering advice to being a friendly, reassuring presence, our prefects have made a lasting impact on the younger students. Their dedication and compassion embody the values we hold dear at Coláiste Bhríde.

We thank our senior prefects for their hard work and commitment. Their efforts have made a real difference, and we are proud to have them as role models for our student body.

## Meitheal Leaders

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

Before the school year started, the group showed their intentions of making this wonderful programme a very meaningful and worthwhile experience for their respective base classes by attending in August to brainstorm and discuss activities that would encourage bonding amongst first years.

As well as attending induction days to assist first years with the practicalities of timetables and finding their way around, our Meitheal leaders had a daily presence in the first few weeks at roll call to help first years with iPad issues/ ebooks and timetables as well as providing emotional support and reassurance to any students they felt needed the extra bit of attention.



# LEADERSHIP

Lunchtime activities have taken 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.

Meitheal leaders also visit base classes twice weekly to encourage students to get involved with extra-curricular activities and to do their best in class.

On Thursday 5th December, Meitheal leaders accompanied first years on their Christmas trip to the Helix for to see a pantomime, followed by a stop off in Dundrum shopping centre for lunch.

Meitheal leaders planned festive activities for their bases classes for the final day of term before the Christmas break.

A Meitheal awards ceremony will take place in The Riverside Hotel in Enniscorthy on 21st January to recognise the invaluable work done by these young people.



## 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*



# LEADERSHIP

## Student Council

Our Student Council has had a busy few months and would like to thank management and the whole school community for their support.

Adam O'Neill was elected Chairperson and has been very active in his role. Ellie Dolan was selected as Vice - Chairperson. Both have been on the council since they were in 1st year and have been dedicated and hardworking members.

We have had a number of meetings this year where issues raised by students have been discussed and forwarded to management. It is important that students familiarise themselves with their student council representatives and come and discuss any queries they have with them.

Our objective this year includes the topic of senior privileges and we would welcome any input from our 5th and 6th year students on this. We were also busy working on our Christmas activities with X-Mas factor auditions which started in late October. Our show before the Christmas break was another memorable event with the level of talent in our school astounding us yet again.

Our Secret Santa went very well again. It was a lovely opportunity to show someone that you care with all profits going to our school charities.

The competition for our Christmas Door competition was a great success again this year.

We have some exciting initiatives planned for 2025 including 'Share the Love' and our spelling bee 'Let's Spellebrate'. We also plan to start selling stationary in the tuck shop to make life easier for students if they run out of anything.

We would once again like to thank everyone for the support and enthusiasm towards the council in 2024.

Looking forward to the year ahead.

Adam O'Neill - Chairperson

### *Message from our chairperson...*

*We were as busy as ever here in the Student Council leading up to the Christmas break! Many thanks to all those who have supported us in 2024 - the local community, parents, school management, and of course, students! We have lots of ideas and projects we're ready to bring forward and keep working on in 2025. Remember that if you have any concerns, or even just a suggestion, please get in touch with any student council member, and we'll try our very best to fight the issues that matter to you.*

*Wishing you all a very happy 2025!*



## Coiste Gaelbhreach

Coláiste Bhríde has taken part in the Gaelbhreach Scheme 2024-2025. The aim of the scheme is to promote the use of Irish outside of the formal classroom setting with the goal of earning a Gaelbhreach (Irish flag) at the end of the year. The Gaelbhreach scheme is student led through the Coiste Gaeilge (Irish committee).



The Coiste will be organising many fun events throughout the year through Irish. On October 9th, two of our 5th year students travelled to the mórcheardlann in Carlow. Here they received training and brainstormed ideas on how to run the Coiste.

The Coiste has organised Caint, Craic agus Ceol in Room 6, where all students were invited to come along and use their 'Cúpla Focal'. A worksop took place where Méabh Ní Laoire from Gaelbhreach spoke to the coiste with lots of ideas and advice. We look forward to the action-packed year ahead for the Coiste.

Bígí linn!





# MATHS

## Maths Week 2024

Maths Week 2024 activities kicked off on Friday 11th October with our annual Maths quizzes for 1st Year and 6th Year students. The competitions were fierce with the participants racing against the clock to solve challenging problems. There was a great sense of competition and teamwork. Both quizzes were designed to enhance problem solving skills which forms a huge part of the Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate courses.



Congratulations to our 6th year winners:  
*Chloe Roberts, Jack Gregan, Conall Butler and Aoife Molloy.*



Congratulations to our 1st year winners:  
*Sylvester Pekara, Hannah Sweetman McDonald, Katie Doyle and Daniel Lawrence.*

In addition to the quizzes, students tackled daily puzzles throughout the week. These ranged from logic riddles to pattern challenges, encouraging all year groups to think critically and creatively. Well done to the following students who were the daily prize winners this year: Ali Gunning (2nd Year), Daniel Dolan (2nd Year), Ruby Gregan (TY), Emma Boland (2nd Year) and Khloe Murphy (1st Year). Students also showcased their creativity by designing Maths Eyes posters. The posters highlighted the maths in everyday life, from the shapes in architecture to the patterns in nature. Well done to everyone who participated for their insightful and artistic contributions! During one of the lunchtime activities, students were tasked with building the largest structure using only spaghetti and mini marshmallows. Teams worked together to design and construct their creations, learning about balance, strength, and geometry in the process. One team triumphed with an impressive structure that stood tall and sturdy. Well done to all who participated for their creativity and teamwork.



The winners on the day were Kenneth Cullen, Billy Redmond and Adam Donohue (6th Year).

*A fun and action-packed week was enjoyed by all.*



## Transition Year Trip to Mountjoy Prison

On Wednesday, 10th December, twenty Transition Year students from Ms. Lancaster's Law class were afforded the opportunity to visit Mountjoy Prison to gain an insight into the Irish prison system.

The visit began with a walking tour of the outside of the prison buildings and yards where students were enlightened as to the history of the prison.

Students were then escorted inside to a visiting room where they were presented with information on various contraband that had been confiscated from prisoners throughout the years and viewed examples of the aforementioned contraband.

An inmate then spoke to the group about his life and experience in Mountjoy Prison.

This was a truly eye-opening encounter as the students then had the opportunity to pose any unanswered queries that they had to the inmate.

The visit concluded with a tour of the prison corridors and cells.

*A special thank you to TY parent, John Jennings, for facilitating the visit.*





## DCU Open Day



On Friday, 15th November our TYs travelled to Dublin City University to participate in the DCU Open Day, attending career and course talks and generally getting a sense of college life around the campus. Such a day always promises to be informative, and it is an ideal opportunity for TY's to explore a college campus as they prepare to be make important subject choices in the weeks ahead.

Students got to see first-hand the different courses of study as they attended the course information lectures. Students also witnessed the recreational aspect of the college by visiting the Student Union Hub, sports facilities and scientific labs.

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## FET Pathways Outdoor Pursuits Course

Eleven of our TY's took the opportunity to do a 3-day Outdoor Pursuits Team Building Day in Baltinglass Outdoor Education Centre on Wednesdays in November. They have had both a theory and practical element to this course which gives students a taste of all the career opportunities available in this industry.





# TY NEWS

## Thursday Activities

All our students have completed Term 1 of their activities. We now begin Term 2 with Golf, Basketball/Badminton, Self-Defence, Gym and Fitness@The Stables.



## TY Mini Companies

Our TY entrepreneurs displayed their wares and moved onto taking orders on the TY Market Day on 4th December. They were visited by local primary schools and also by the first and second years of the school. Some students also participated in a Christmas Fair in The Gap on 8th December.





## Horticulture

On Tuesday 5th November, our two Horticulture classes travelled to the National Botanical Gardens in Glasnevin, where they received a guided tour and a workshop.



## Road Safety class visit to Carnew Fire Station

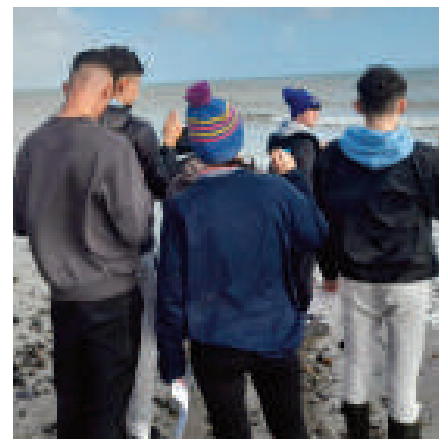
The two Road Safety classes had a very worthwhile visit to Carnew Fire Station in October where they got to experience first-hand what happens when attending the scene of a mock accident and CPR training.

## ESS Trip to Rosslare Strand

On October 7th and 11th, our TYs travelled to Rosslare for a field trip. Between showers, students enjoyed sunny spells whilst completing a coastal study as part of their ESS module.

Students tested wave frequency, the direction of longshore drift, and the impact of groynes.

Students also examined a sample of the deposition and took a profile of the beach.

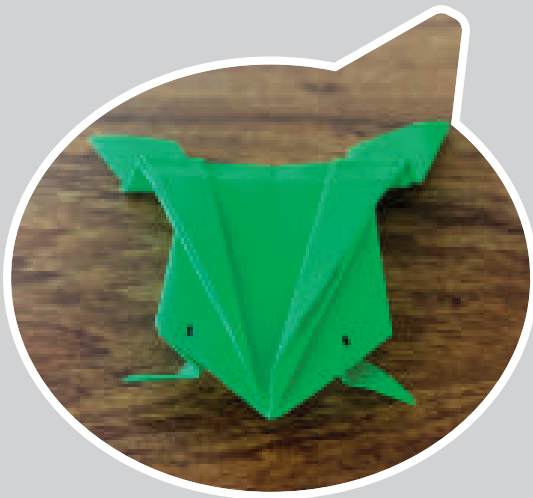




# TEACH LEVEL KNOWLEDGE TY NEWS



Think Global Opportunities  
#ThinkLanguages



## #ThinkLanguages Week

At the end of November, we celebrated 'Think Languages' week in Coláiste Bhríde. This week highlights the importance of studying a language and the doors that a language can open for students.

Throughout the week, Ms Gahan shared popular expressions over the intercom in various languages. Some of our TY students visited junior language classes and worked with them on grammar points and vocabulary.

On Friday we rounded off our week with a workshop for all TY students. The students watched the opening ceremony which followed the language learning journeys of a number of young people. The students played a game of Kahoot against schools across the country which was great fun. An origami workshop was one of the big successes of the day with our students displaying wonderful creativity.

## Young Social Innovators

Our YSI class has been very busy this academic year with their project entitled ...

### **'Take a Stand, Change the Band'.**

They are focusing on the current Junior Cycle (JC) grading system and the overall negative effect it is having on the morale of both students and teachers.

There are 3 main changes which they would like to see to the current system:

- **The introduction of a new grade band**
- **Allowing students to access the percentage achieved in each subject**
- **Allowing students to view their corrected scripts**

They are currently contacting our local members of government and planning a national day of protest on this issue.

**WATCH  
THIS!  
SPACE!**





TEACH LEVEL KNOW  
**Y NEWS****Rather be Reading**

We are delighted to run our 'Rather be Reading' (RBR) class again this year. The goal of this class is to empower students to promote reading for pleasure across our school community and in the wider community.

The class has been very active with visits to both Carnew Nursing Home and Scoil Aodán Naofa in Carnew where they delivered reading workshops. Our 'Word of the Week' competition is up and running with the class selecting the winning sentence each week. We have visited local businesses and put up posters reminding everyone of the importance of reading. We are also extremely grateful to the Carnew Newsletter for allowing us to reprise our monthly page this year. It is such a nice feeling for our students to be published authors.

We have also spent a lot of time organising our school library and making it an inviting place for all. We have recently put some new books and board games on the shelves and we love seeing students use them at break times.

We would like to thank everyone for their support of our class again this year and we have many exciting initiatives planned for next year. Happy reading everyone.





E TEACH LEVEL KNOW **TRIPS**

## Christmas Trips

### First Year

Our first year students enjoyed a great day out in Dublin on their Christmas trip. They visited the Helix theatre in DCU, for a matinee showing of Rapunzel. This proved to be a hit with our students and teachers as the highly professional production provided many screams and laughs throughout.

Next up was a trip across the city to visit Dundrum town centre to get some lunch and Christmas shopping! Well done to our students, who were commended for their conduct and indeed singing talent by the Helix staff.







## Second Year

Our second year students had an amazing time at Leisuremax in Wexford. They thoroughly enjoyed the huge variety of activities on offer and it certainly brought out their competitive side!



## Third Year

Third year students had another action-packed school tour recently. They were full of energy and enthusiasm from the outset, embracing every challenge and activity with excitement. From bubble football, goggle football and escape rooms, to sumo wrestling, laser tag, and bowling, they dived into each experience with joy and determination.

It was a perfect opportunity for them to bond outside the classroom while creating memories that they will cherish for years to come. Their behaviour throughout the day was exemplary, and this was noted and commended by the staff at the centre



# Erasmus +

Since our return to school in September we have been very busy thanks to our partner, Erasmus +. We had our French and German exchanges as well as a new and exciting Trad Group trip to Barcelona. All in all we saw 62 students travelling to France, Germany and Spain. We look forward to much more in 2025 including an exciting trip in February when our Home Economics department head to Sorrento to learn the secrets of Italian cuisine. February will also see 10 students arriving from France for 3 weeks in our school and community with our 10 returning to France in April. March will feature the incoming half of both our French and German exchanges when we will play host to approximately 50 students from France and Germany for 10 days. Lastly we also plan on bringing our 5th Year French students to France in April for 4 days of culture and language workshops.

**As always we would like to acknowledge the ongoing financial support provided to us by Erasmus +.**



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

October 2024 In October last, twenty-six students embarked on an enriching exchange trip to ChâteauGontier, France. What began as a short journey abroad soon unfolded into a tapestry of discovery, friendship, and cultural immersion, carefully woven over ten remarkable days. The adventure commenced in the heart of France - Paris. For two days, the students experienced the City of Light in all its elegance. The Eiffel Tower's sparkling display shimmered above them, the Champs-Élysées welcomed them to its array of luxury shopfronts while the Arc de Triomphe stood proud and serene as they climbed its steps. Montmartre, with its majestic Basilique du Sacré-Cœur, glistened in the glorious October sunshine as the students soaked up the sun and the ambiance of this prominent hillside landmark. A late evening boat ride along the Seine offered a fresh view of the iconic city, providing moments of calm reflection between the lively sights and sounds of the bustling metropolis. Paris, with all its character and charm, provided the perfect beginning to the students' stay, allowing them to immerse themselves in the language and culture of France's renowned capital. The group then journeyed to Château-Gontier, where the authentic experience of the exchange awaited. For the next eight days, students were welcomed by their French correspondents from Lycée Victor Hugo, where they experienced the vibrant reality of French daily life. Throughout the week, they joined their hosts in the classroom, navigating both academic subjects and lively conversations that deepened their connection to the French language while simultaneously forming bonds that would last well beyond the exchange. Alternate days were spent exploring the Troglodyte region, the town of Angers, the nearby Mine Bleue where slates were mined for many years, as well as the famous Abbey of MontSaint-Michel on the coast of Normandy. Over the years, this French exchange has become a cherished tradition in Coláiste Bhríde, evolving with each passing year into a true cultural bridge between our two schools. Thanks to the incredible support of the Erasmus+ grant, the programme has flourished in recent years, allowing students not only to enhance their language skills but also to broaden their horizons and perspectives. This year's trip, like each one before it, was a powerful reminder of the value of shared experiences and the joy of connecting across borders. Now, with memories of Paris's splendour and Château-Gontier's hospitality fresh in our minds, we look forward to the next chapter of this exchange in March, when we will welcome our French friends to Ireland. Our students are eager to share the beauty of our country, the warmth of our school and the plethora of our Irish traditions, strengthening the bonds that continue to grow through this invaluable linguistic and cultural exchange programme.





## German Exchange

In mid-October, nineteen students had the chance to spend nine days in Bavaria, Germany. The trip began with two nights in Munich, featuring a city tour and a visit to the Allianz Arena. The group then travelled to Neustadt an der Waldnaab for a seven-night stay, where they met their exchange partners. During their time there, the students participated in various activities, including traditional dancing, a visit to Regensburg, and a tour of a television station. This incredible experience was made possible through funding from the Erasmus+ Programme.



## Traditional Group

A group of nineteen traditional musicians from 2nd to 6th year travelled to Sitges, Barcelona in October where they had a wonderful musical experience with their partner school, Escola Pia Sitges. This musical mobility was made possible because of the Carnew school's Erasmus+ programme which is going from strength to strength.

The Carnew students had prepared a selection of Catalan music in advance and the Spanish students had prepared an Irish dance especially for the occasion. The Escola Pia students performed traditional Catalan dances to the accompaniment of the Coláiste Bhríde musicians. The collaboration continued onto the streets of the old town, culminating in a visit to the Town Hall and a performance for the Mayoress and her entourage. Their talent was exceptionally well received by those who were lucky enough to be present.

The group also participated in some of the Creative Connexions Festival Sitges activities which included musical workshops and performances. The highlight for the Coláiste Bhríde students was their opportunity to perform in the Jardins de Prado where representatives from the Irish and British Embassies attended.





