



Summer 2026

COLÁISTE CHRAOBH

ABHANN

Newsletter



Dear Parent/Guardian

We are writing to keep you informed on some of the recent activities in the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

We hope you and your family have a wonderful Summer.

Reminders

Please ensure that the school office has an up-to-date phone number and address to contact you, in the event of the school needing to contact parents and guardians about school matters.

Important Upcoming Events

Junior and Leaving Certificate State Examinations

State Examinations will begin on Wednesday 3rd June for Junior and Leaving Cycle.

For more information, the full timetable for the exams can be viewed at <https://exams.ie/2026-timetables/>

Best of luck to all involved.

Contents

Student of the Month	Page 2
CCA School Life	Page 3
Sports Teams and Sports Day	Page 6
Graduation Ceremony	Page 9
Prize Day	Page 10
Transition Year	Page 11
Barcelona School Tour	Page 17
Showstoppers	Page 18

Students of the Month

This special CCA initiative has been a focus of our school's approach to promoting the holistic development of each student. The students who received the awards have excelled in all areas of school life during the past month. Well done to all our award winners!



CCA School Life

MR MAHER'S RETIREMENT

After 37 remarkable years in education, our colleague and friend Bill Maher is officially retiring from teaching.

The positive impact Bill has had on the lives of hundreds of students, colleagues, and the wider school community will be felt for many years to come.



TURNING OF THE SOD

Friday, 15th May, was a wonderful day for our school. The 'Turning of the Sod' ceremony took place to mark the commencement of the construction phase for our building project at Coláiste Chraobh Abhann.

We were honoured to be joined at the ceremony by Tánaiste Simon Harris TD, members of the Board of Management and Parents' Association, representatives from the construction and design teams, and members of the local community.



TRIP TO TUD

Fifth Year students enjoyed a presentation on all the various courses available at the five campuses of Technological University Dublin, followed by a walking tour of the Grangegorman Campus.



WORLD DOWNSYNDROME DAY

Our students and staff proudly celebrated World Down Syndrome Day on Thursday, 19th March by rocking their odd, colourful and funky socks!

At lunchtime, staff and senior students enjoyed a special screening of An Irish Goodbye, while our junior students got creative designing their own vibrant sock creations on Friday.



SCI-FEST

Well done to our First Year students who participated in Sci-Fest at schools. They all completed wonderful projects on their own scientific investigations and demonstrated such care in their work.

Overall winners – Rhys Dowling, Bordy James and Marwan Behery with their project based around AI generated images.



STUDENT CONGRESS

In March, we held our 2nd annual Student Congress. This year's theme focused on celebrating what is working well in our school community, while also discussing areas where we can continue to improve.

Students voice was truly in action, with every class represented by prefects and deputy prefects.



5TH YEAR MUSIC RECITAL

On Thursday 30th April Fifth year music students organised a recital for their parents.

There was a wide variety of pieces on offer including, Can't help falling in love with you, Count on me, Empty spaces, Moon river, Be whoever you are, Servant of evil, Lover girl, I dreamed a dream, Ave Maria & Ciao Bella. It was an opportunity to show off all their hard work over the past year and a time for refreshments and chat with family and friends afterwards.



OAK HUB

Throughout the year, CCA's Oak Hub attended of trips. They enjoyed days to the cinema, the beach and the aquarium in Bray. Each trip is another opportunity to practise life skills and independence shopping, travelling and eating out.



PEER MENTOR SHOWCASE

Transition Year students were invited to apply for the highly regarded role of Peer Mentor for the upcoming school year.

As Peer Mentors, 5th year students play a vital role in guiding and supporting first years as they settle into secondary school life.

Applicants were asked to submit a piece reflecting what being a Peer Mentor would mean to them, followed by a presentation to a selection committee.

With over 30 applications received, we were truly impressed by the exceptional standard, creativity, and effort demonstrated throughout the submissions and presentations.

Congratulations to all who applied for making the process such a challenging one for the staff selection panel.



GAELTACHT TRIP

54 Senior Cycle students travelled to Belmullet in Co. Mayo to attend Coláiste Uisce on the annual CCA Gaeltacht trip. They spent three days on the water surfing, paddle boarding, doing team building activities, archery, pier jumping and céilí all through Irish.



Sports and Sports Day

Well done to all the teachers who give their time voluntarily to support all the extra-curricular activities in CCA. It is very much appreciated. All extra-curricular activities are available for viewing on our school's website. An excellent term of sports took place in various



SPORTS DAY

CCA held our much-anticipated annual Sports Day event—and what an incredible day it turned out to be! From start to finish, the atmosphere was electric with enthusiasm, teamwork, and school spirit. The event was a massive success and a truly enjoyable experience for everyone involved. A huge thank you goes to Kilcoole GAA Club for their generosity in allowing us to use their excellent pitches and facilities. Their support made a huge difference and contributed greatly to the smooth running of the day. Our dedicated PE Department pulled out all the stops to organise a brilliant day full of fun, challenge, and physical activity. From races and relays to novelty events and team games, there was something for everyone to enjoy. It was wonderful to see staff, students, and parents coming together to make the day so memorable. The community spirit and positive energy on display were a testament to the strength of the CCA family. What a special day it was—filled with laughter, encouragement, and unforgettable moments. Days like this remind us of the power of sport to bring people together and create lasting memories.





Graduation Ceremony

We marked the graduation of our class of 2026. Our school community gathered together for a very special ceremony as we celebrated the hard work, commitment and dedication of our students.



Well done to our Rogha na Bliana winners Jack Finnegan and Sive Jenkinson.



The Gradam Speisialta Award winner Lauren Ward.



The KWETB Ethos Award winner Abbie Cooke.



Our graduation committee deserve a huge thank you for an exceptionally organised student led celebration.

Prize Day

CCA held their annual Prize Day Awards ceremony for juniors and seniors. This ceremony is a focal point of the school calendar where academic, sporting and extra-curricular excellence is celebrated and recognised. Staff and students were delighted to share the fantastic day together with the students' amazing team of tutors and year heads. Well done to everyone involved in this joyous day of celebration.



Transition Year Highlights

TY PRODUCTION

What a night at our Transition Year production of *How I Met your Mamma!!* From the opening number to the final bows, the talent, energy, and confidence on stage were incredible. A huge congratulations to all of our TY students who worked so hard over the past few months — your dedication truly shone through last night.

A special thank you to the teachers, backstage crew, musicians, and everyone who helped bring the show to life. And of course, thank you to all the families and friends who came along to support the cast. The audience were dancing, singing, and smiling all the way through — a night to remember!



TY GAISCE

TY students completed a two day adventure journey through the Wicklow mountains as part of their GAISCE Bronze Award. Having completed their three challenge areas during the year, this was the final component of the award. Students began with a walk around Glendalough, before joining The Wicklow Way, hiking over Scarr Mountain and finishing Day 1 at Lough Dan. After camping overnight, students completed a second hike around Lough Dan on Day 2, completing 25kms across the two days. Well done to all students and staff involved for completing this challenge.



POETRY SLAM

TY students took part in an inspiring Poetry Slam workshop with Stephen Murray from Inspireland. This engaging session blended poetry, creative writing, and literacy, encouraging students to explore the true power of language and how it shapes the world around us. Throughout the workshop, students explored important themes such as activism, wellness, gender, relationships, identity, equality, and even revolution, using their voices in creative and meaningful ways. A thought-provoking and empowering experience that sparked creativity and conversation across the group.

**BIOTECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP**

TYs took part in a Biotechnology Workshop today. They carried out DNA Fingerprinting to determine who stole Ms. Horgan's iPad. The person who stole it better watch out as the TYs are on the case!

**ROAD SAFETY**

Transition Year students attended the 'Just-1-Life' road safety event, hosted by the Wicklow Rotary Club in the Mermaid Arts Centre in Bray.

Students were given insightful talks by various professionals from An Garda Síochána, the Ambulance and Fire Services, and from medical professionals who deal with the aftermath of a road collision. As the next generation of road users, students were given an in-depth insight into the impact that an accident can have, whilst also

FORENSICS AND CRIMINOLOGY WORKSHOP

TY students took part in a forensics and criminology workshop with Pat from Forensic Fun. Students learned all about the assassination of JFK. They looked at different evidence and clues to try and recreate what had happened. Fingerprinting and ballistics were also part of the workshop. Finally, students learned about college courses in forensics and possible career opportunities in the field.



MOUNTJOY PRISON

Since Christmas, all of our TY students have been given the opportunity to visit Mountjoy Prison. They learned about the history of the prison, the day-to-day operations of the prison, what it's like to work in a prison, the legal system and careers within the prison service. Many thanks to The Irish Prison Service for facilitating the visits.



DRUMMING WORKSHOP

TY students took part in drumming workshops facilitated by Neil from www.drumnature.com. Students learned all about drumming techniques and traditional West African drumming, with focus on the experience of playing traditional African rhythms as well as some background into the origin and history of the music and instruments.

**RICHIE SADLIER**

We were delighted to welcome back Richie Sadlier @richiesadlier to CCA to talk to our TY students about a range of topics including mental health, adolescent development, consent and sexual health. Well done to Jagoda and James who were MCs for the talk.

**FILMMAKING WORKSHOP**

TY students worked with Emmet from Burning House Productions in filmmaking workshops. Students learned all about the tv and film industry as well as learning about camera shots and sizes, how to shoot in sequence, visual FX, editing and learned how to use their devices as a camera and edit suite. We look forward to watching the films and content created by our TY students, that they wrote, directed, produced and starred in.

**TRIP TO THE OIREACHTAS**

TY students had the opportunity to visit The Houses of The Oireachtas. They were given a tour of Dáil Éireann, The Seanad and learned about the history of Government buildings. Students then took part in an educational workshop learning about The Government and The Constitution.



JACK KAVANAGH

We were delighted to welcome the remarkable Jack Kavanagh @jackkavanaghirl back to CCA to speak to our TY students about his life story, wellbeing, resilience and diverse abilities. Jack delivered a powerful and inspirational message to our students.

**VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION**

The hall was full of energy, laughter, skill and brilliant team spirit from start to finish. Every tutor group brought their own fun, creativity and teamwork, making the day a fantastic success. It was great to see everyone getting involved, supporting each other and showing off their volleyball talents.

A huge well done to all TY students for the effort, positivity and sportsmanship on display. Congratulations to our eventual winners on the day, 4CCS!

**FIRST AID AND MANUAL HANDLING**

Since January all TY students have been training in First Aid and Manual Handling. After completing their online modules, students completed practical hands on training over four days this week in school in Basic First Aid, AED and CPR. Many thanks to David and Barry from First Aid Coaching for facilitating the training.

**GLOBAL ISSUES**

As part of Global Issues Week, TY students welcomed founder and former CEO of the charity GOAL, John O'Shea, for a talk on Friday in which he passionately spoke about his work in the developing world, global issues and social entrepreneurship.



CAUSEY FARM

TYs enjoyed an action-packed two days last week, starting with a fantastic trip to Causey Farm. From making their own pizzas and exploring the farm to bog jumping, Irish dancing, learning the bodhrán, pedal boating, Farmaphobia, and team-building activities, there was never a dull moment. Then it was on to Drewstown House for an overnight stay before heading to Emerald Park for a full day of excitement and fun. A wonderful experience for all filled with laughter, friendship, smiles and unforgettable memories for everyone involved.



TY CELEBRATION

On Friday 15th May, we were delighted to welcome our community with a student lead TY Celebration that demonstrated the unique CCA Transition Year Programme.

Thanks to the fantastic planning and organisation from Mr Ryan, Ms Miley, Ms Tobin and the whole TY Team. During the year the students had time for fun and gain many great experiences, broaden their horizons and build fond memories for life.

We were delighted to also acknowledge the contribution of our international students and wish them as they return home.



Barcelona

The annual second year trip took place before Easter with 106 students and 10 supporting staff headed off to Barcelona. On Day 1 they headed straight to the city centre with two stops on a sightseeing tour of the city that included the Estadio Olympic, the home of the Olympic Games in 1992. The highlight of the was a visit to the Sagrada Familia Basilica.



On Day 2 they headed to Barcelona FC's home, Camp Nou Stadium that is under construction. A visit to the interactive museum and viewing point allowed them to soak up the atmosphere.



They then travelled through to the breathtaking multi-peaked mountain range of Montserrat to Montserrat Monastery and finished the evening entertained at the excellent magic show in The House of Illusion.

On Day 3 they headed to PortAventura. They discovered the six worlds of one of Europe's most iconic theme parks containing more than 40 rides and more than 5 km of roller coasters that only the bravest would attempt, including some teachers.



In the evening, they finished the fun filled day with a visit to Bowling Diverland that was mixed with a variety of talents and techniques on display.



On the last day they travelled back into the city and visited the Science Museum with plenty of interactive exhibits, followed by the Barcelona Aquarium and a spot of shopping.



CCA Showstoppers

For an amazing two nights this year, Coláiste Chraobh Abhann hosted our sixth annual talent show, Showstoppers. This event continues to go down in school history as one of the most exceptional and joyous occasions for CCA. Words cannot describe how proud we felt as our whole school community came together on the school premises to celebrate the unique talents and gifts of our wonderful young people. The Students, staff, parents, past pupils, and members of wider school community were overwhelmed by the sheer brilliance of our student performances. From soloists to group dances, from pianists to comedy fun acts, the entertainment was second to none. Our guest judges were confronted with the unenviable task of selecting a winner.

Congratulations to our winners Lauren Coffey, Ms Worldwide, Dancing Divas, Daniel Cryan, Riain Shannon, and Lara Lawlor for their fantastic performances on the night!



Thank you to everyone who came along and thank you to our wonderful Showstoppers team, led by Ms Cummins, who made this event possible. Excellence, Care, Respect, Inclusion and an extraordinary sense of school Community made this a night to remember, and we were so delighted to showcase what CCA is all about.



