

ST. BRENDAN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Winter, 2025



Building **SUCCESS** Through **ATTENDANCE**

✓ Every day counts ✓ Every student matters ✓ Attend to achieve



St. Brendan's Community School

Upcoming Events

January

- 5th School reopens
- 13th School closed Oide Cluster Day
- Parent Teacher Meetings
- 12th 5th Year
- 22nd 1st Year

February

- 2nd School closed St. Brigid's Day
- 5th – 13th Pre Junior Cycle and Leaving Cert Exams
- 16th – 20th Mid Term Break
- 25th School Closed Oide LC Training

March

- 9th – 16th Seachtain na Gaeilge
- 12th Subject Choice Fair
- 16th & 17th School Closed
- 27th End of Term Easter Holidays

April

- 13th School reopens
- 23rd Amber Flag Day
- 30th Intercultural Day

May

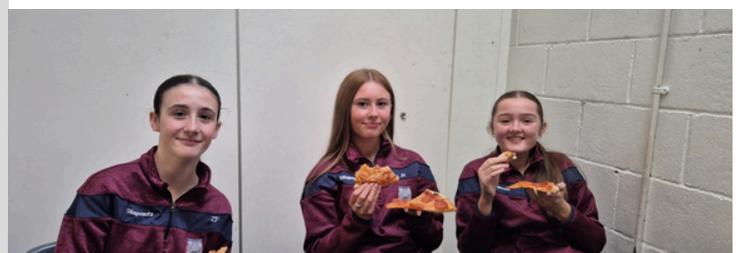
- 4th School Closed Bank Holiday
- 5th -7th LC Engineering Practical Exams
- 18th 6th year Graduation
- 21st TY Graduation
- 25th – 29th Summer Exams for 1st, 2nd and 5th years

June

- 3rd State Exams commence

Pizza Attendance Challenge

2nd year students enjoyed a pizza afternoon as a reward for good attendance. Their attendance has both improved and increased. This reward has now been extended to all year groups to encourage everyone to attend school. Success is attained in St. Brendan's Community School through attendance.



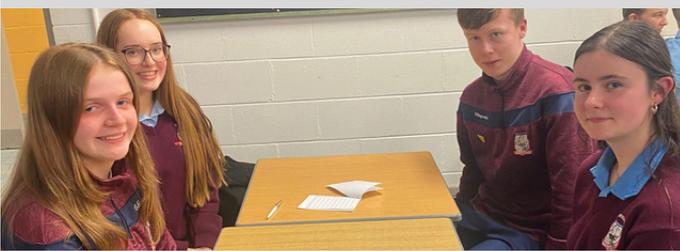
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2nd year Home Economics students were busy crafting this term. They made beautiful Christmas stockings using hand embroidery and the sewing machine.



Athena Tracker

We are delighted to announce the introduction of Athena to St. Brendan's, which has been gradually rolled out across all year groups. Athena supports one of our key DEIS targets by encouraging and helping students to set realistic target grades for each exam. These targets are recorded in Athena and allow students, teachers, and parents to track progress in every subject over time. Further information about Athena is available on our website under the Parents section.



Gaisce 2025/2026

Keeping in line with previous years, St. Brendan's Community School has upheld its strong tradition with the Gaisce programme. In September 72 TY Bronze Gaisce Awardees and five 5th Year Silver Gaisce Awardees completed their two day, one night Adventure Journey in Portumna. All involved completed a 25km hike.

Bronze and Silver Awardees continue to work on their remaining three key challenge areas; Personal Skill, Physical Recreation and Community Involvement. The team of PALs include; Ms. Whelan, Ms. O'Hara, Ms. Marks, Ms. Carty, Ms. Grant, Ms. Greer, Mr. Byrne and Mr. Egan.

We are proud of all the awardees, and we wish them well in their future endeavours.

Go n-éirí go geal libh!

Feachtas Tráth na gCeist

Seán Turley, Kate Maher, Bronagh Mulrooney agus Aisling Farrell came 2nd overall in the Feachtas Tráth na gCeist that took place in Tullamore College in November. They are through to the final in Dublin next March. Two other teams took part from the school. Comhghairdeas!



Battle of the Wits

Congratulations to TY students Ethan, Peter, Eleanor and Caoimhe on 2nd place in the Battle of Wits regional final. They were narrowly beaten by Athlone CC in a competition taking in 8 schools from four counties. Many thanks to Offaly Libraries for organising and enjoyable event.

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1st Year Bonding Day – Lilliput Adventure Centre

In September, 140 of our 1st Year students, joined by their Meitheal Leaders, travelled to Lilliput Adventure Centre for their annual bonding day. Despite some mixed weather, spirits were high, and the rain certainly didn't dampen the students' enthusiasm or fun.

Throughout the day, students took part in a wide variety of activities including orienteering, aeroball, assault course challenges, bog hopping, and much more. The laughter, teamwork, and energy on display were a great reflection of how well our new 1st Years are settling in and getting to know one another.

The trip was accompanied by Deputy Principal Paul Darcy, Year Head Thomas Hannon, Tutors Julie Stephens, Niamh Marks, Trish O'Meara, Katie Feenan, Ciara Hoyne, and SNA Geraldine Meaney. A big thank you to all the staff and Meitheal Leaders who supported the day, and to the students for bringing such positivity and enthusiasm.

It was a memorable start to their journey in St. Brendan's, and we look forward to many more great days ahead.



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Seirbhís Tacaíochta
Oideachais Tusla
Tusla Education Support S

SCP provides a range of interventions in St. Brendan's Community School such as individual sessions, exam support, Mind Out wellbeing programme for both boys and girls, Lunch Club and golf. We are delighted with our office space and acknowledge the importance of it as some of our young people like to pop in for a chat or maybe some reassurance.

SCP recognises the challenge transferring from primary to post primary school can pose for students, SCP makes every effort to support this transition. Sixth class pupils in Mercy Primary, St. Brendan's Boys' School and Oxmantown National School are provided with a 13 session transfer programme and three interschool activities with Transition Year Students from St. Brendan's Community School and the three primary schools in our Birr cluster. These events include a treasure hunt, ceili and a wellbeing day. In August every young person enrolled in SBCS is invited to attend our Transfer Day. This very popular event has achieved 95% take up. It is designed to introduce the first year group to their new school and classmates informally through the use of social activities. In first year, we are delighted to offer further universal support with our Dúchas programme. Facilitated in tutor groups, this activity-based programme aims to support the young person's sense of belonging and become familiar with their new school culture.

The SCP team, would like to thank most sincerely school Principal Mr. John Kennedy, Ms Sabrina Carroll HSCL, Deputy Principals Ms Fidelma Foy and Mr Paul Darcy and all the school staff for their support and co-operation throughout the term. It is invaluable to us. We hope you have a happy Christmas and best wishes for 2026.



ST. BRENDAN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Term 1



Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

As we come to the end of this term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable effort, resilience, and sense of community shown across St. Brendan's in recent months. Each of you has contributed in your own way to the positive atmosphere and vibrant school life that define our community.

This time of year offers us the chance to pause and appreciate the progress made - academically, personally, and socially. Whether you took on new challenges, supported others, or embraced opportunities both inside and outside the classroom, your commitment has helped strengthen the spirit of our school.

As we begin the Christmas break, I encourage everyone to take time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the company of family and friends. Thank you for your continued support and engagement throughout the term. We look forward to welcoming you all back on January 5th, 2026, ready for a new year filled with growth, learning, and shared success.

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and a bright, fulfilling year ahead.

Ní neart go cur le chéile.

John Kennedy