



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

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1  
NOVEMBER 2025



# GREYSTONES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## School Newsletter



## The New School Year Kicks Off at GCC!

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...



BUILDING UPDATE



JC RESULTS



HALLOWEEN DRESS UP

## FOLLOW THE JOURNEY



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## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF



Ms Sinéad  
Brady  
Ag Science &  
Biology



Ms Bella Byrne  
English &  
History



Mr Oisín  
Byrne  
Gaeilge &  
History



Ms Katie  
Cooke  
French &  
Gaeilge



Ms Grace  
Donnelly  
AEN & Art



Ms Eilish  
Doyle  
Home Ec &  
Biology



Mr John Doyle  
Accounting &  
Business



Ms. Hannah  
Sammon  
Music and  
SPHE



Mr Daniel  
Hicks  
Geography &  
History



Ms Samiha  
Hsouna  
Maths &  
Science



Ms Susan  
Jenkins  
Home Ec &  
Biology



Ms Sophie  
McGrath  
History &  
Geography



Mr Chris  
Muies  
Physical  
Education



Mr. Chris  
Murphy  
Maths &  
Biology



Mr. Robert  
Wiggins  
French and  
English



Ms Beth  
Roberts  
Maths & PE

## Teacher Reflection - Ms Beth Roberts

Settling into a new school has been an exciting and uplifting experience. From day one, I've been struck by the warmth and enthusiasm of both staff and students. It truly feels like a community that celebrates learning and enjoys having fun along the way. Two memorable highlights stand out to me. The first was the staff versus Sixth Years football match, brilliantly organised by our Sports Council and Mr. Muies. The atmosphere was electric, with students cheering loudly from the sidelines. It was fantastic to see everyone come together in such high spirits—though I must admit, the Sixth Years may have taught us teachers a few lessons for a change! The second occasion I thoroughly enjoyed was our Halloween dress-up day, wonderfully facilitated by Mr. Waters and the ever-enthusiastic Sixth Years. Every class and year group impressed with their creativity, and the effort put into the costumes was incredible. The staffroom was full of wigs, moustaches, and laughter, and the students clearly loved seeing their teachers join in the fun. These moments are what make GCC so distinctive. It's not just about lessons and exams, but about connection, laughter, and community. I'm genuinely excited for all the memories still to come in this wonderful school.

AND ALSO TO OUR NEW FIRST YEAR STUDENTS



10 Offaly



11 Tipperary



1 Roscommon



1 Tyrone



1 Sligo



As part of their GCC induction, first year students took part in an activity morning filled with stone art, physical activity and Greystones sea air!

It was a fantastic morning for all and a great chance for them to bond.

A huge thank you to year head Ms Broe and the rest of the team for organising the event.

## Welcome from the Principal and Deputy Principals

We are delighted to share the first issue of our newsletter for 2025/2026 with all members of our school community. This newsletter provides a snapshot of the many different activities and achievements which have taken place in the first Block at Greystones Community College. We couldn't be prouder of our amazing students and dedicated staff. They make our school what it is and we are very proud of all the achievements during this block.



From academic success to extra curricular accomplishments, our students have shone bright and they continue to inspire us with their hard work and enthusiasm for learning. In this edition of the newsletter, you will read about all the successes from Junior Cycle results, to pastoral weeks to different school wide initiatives. Particular success was achieved by GCC winning the Wicklow Wexford Chess Competition and an outstanding 8 projects making the National final of the Stripe Young Scientist Competition 2025. Special mention to our new staff and students who joined the GCC community this year. We know you have settled in very well

We would like to extend our gratitude to our staff whose commitment to providing a stimulating learning environment has been instrumental in our students success. Their dedication and enthusiasm for what they do is commendable. Thank you to our parents, guardians and students for your continued support in making Greystones Community College a strong learning community characterised by positive relationships. We would ask that you continue to maintain high levels of involvement in your child's homework, organisation and wellbeing in addition to monitoring their mobile phone and social media use. It is by working together that we will achieve the best outcomes for our students.

We look forward to the excitement in the weeks ahead. We are currently planning and coordinating our move to our schools permanent building at Hawkins Wood. You will read below an update on the progress and we look forward to sharing these plans with you in the weeks ahead.

## Welcome from the Parent Leadership Team

It has been a busy Block 1 with the ever successful PLT table quiz and the launch of the school Lotto. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets, donated prizes, and got involved. A super team effort!

Fundraising is extra important this year, with the school preparing to move into its forever home. The lotto is a great initiative, and we will soon be announcing some special Christmas draw prizes. It was also great to meet so many 1st year parents at the welcome night and coffee morning, and we hope you get involved with the PLT as your children move up through the school. It's a great way to meet other parents be part of the thriving GCC community.



Ms. Lucy Pappas  
PLT Chairperson

# Permanent Building Update



Greystones Community College Head Students Naomi and Callum were delighted to welcome Tánaiste Simon Harris to the GCC permanent building at Hawkins Wood, Greystones in September, as the project to deliver a state of the art 1000 pupil school for the community nears its completion.

The Chairperson of the Board of Management Cllr Louise Fenelon Gaskin and members of the school management team received a full tour of the building and were briefed on the plans for the closing stages of the building project. Thanks to BAM construction for facilitating the visit. We are looking forward to moving into our permanent home soon.

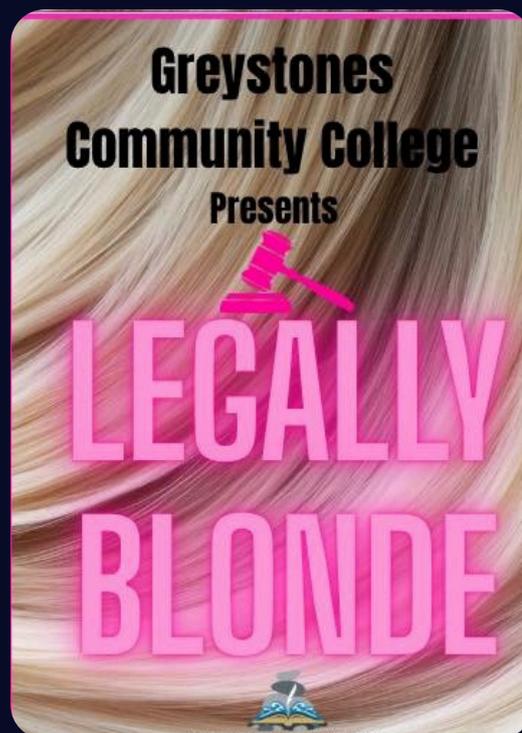


## School Musical Announcement

We are delighted to announce that GCC's next musical will take place in March next year.

The cast are already working hard in rehearsals and behind the scenes, led by Ms Salmon and Ms Jones. If last year's musical is anything to go by, you won't want to miss this!

Keep an eye out on social media for cast lists, ticket information and behind the scenes action!



## Teacher Reflection

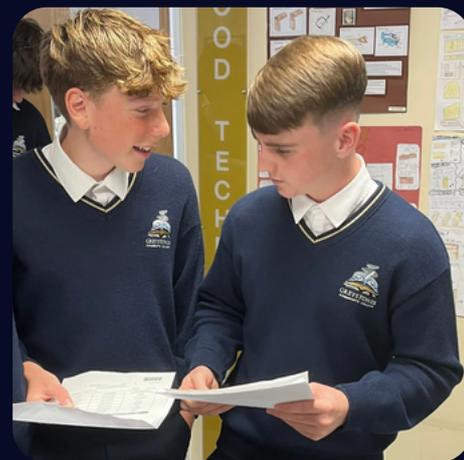
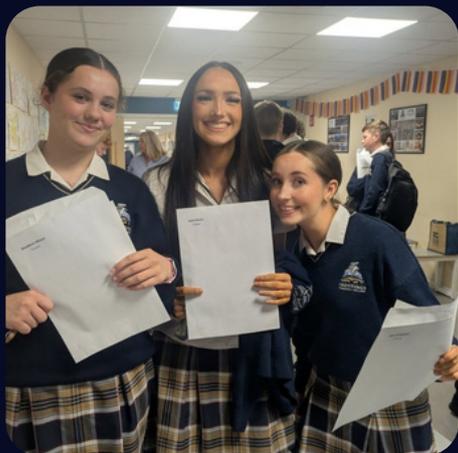


It has been a whirlwind of a block from the first day back in August up to this moment. Being a Skill4school tutor, being based in P Block this year, and being a subject coordinator, I am seeing school life from a completely different perspective when working with students, staff and parents.

In addition to this new perspective, from working with 6<sup>th</sup> years on the yearbook, preparing music with the Grúpa Ceoil for the exchange students and school events, guiding the Coiste Gaeilge with promoting Irish in the school and undertaking the geography fieldwork project with the sixth years, I have seen the true value that can be gained from learning outside of the classroom and expanding beyond the set curriculum. I hope the students have learnt from me as much as I have learnt from them in this block.

-Marc Bolton Lee

## Junior Cycle Results



A very proud day for Greystones Community College with students receiving their Junior Cycle results. Prior to getting their envelopes, students were congratulated by Ms. Puente, Mr Creavin and Mr. Farrell who expressed how proud they were of every student and every achievement. We know the journey each student has travelled to get to this point.

We are proud of the student that stuck at Higher Level Irish and got an 'Achieved' grade.

We are proud of the student who overcame personal challenges to sit a Junior Cycle and obtain a number of 'Merit' grades.

We are proud of the student who took up a language in 3rd year and excelled.

And of course, we are proud of all the students who achieved all 'Distinctions' across the board.

Each and every student has written their own story and have been supported by their teachers and school staff along the way. Today is day of reflection and celebration for the journey you have travelled. This is your story!



# Open Evening 2025



Thank you to the hundreds of 6th class students and their families who joined us at Greystones Community College for our annual Open Evening, the last one before we move to our permanent building. The positivity, energy and enthusiasm was clear for everyone to experience.

Thank you to our wonderful students who came together in huge numbers. They were exceptional as tour guides, ambassadors, demonstrators, and musicians, working to showcase the school. The Open Evening is very much a student-led event.

A special thanks goes to the Greystones Community College Staff, Parent Leadership Team and Board of Management who spent the evening engaging with parents and students about the educational experiences available at GCC.





### Halloween Dress Up Day

Well done to all students who made such an effort to join in the fun of our annual Halloween Dress Up day. Thanks to Mr Waters and Mr Murphy who worked with 6th year students and the Student Leadership Team to organise this fun annual event.

2025 Themes:

1st Year - Wednesday/Addams Family

2nd Year - Harry Potter

3rd Year - Monster High

4th Year - High School Musical

5th Year - Grease

Teachers - The 80s

6th Year - Choice of any theme above

Here are some photos of the winners in each category!



# Get To Know Me: James Flood

Introduce yourself. Tell us your name, what you teach and how long have you been in GCC?

My name is James, I teach History, Geography and CSPE and I have been in GCC since September 2025



What made you decide to become a teacher?

I'd worked at a couple of different careers but found working with young people more worthwhile and fulfilling and enjoyable.

What has been the highlight of your time in GCC to date?

Arranging Bertie Ahern to visit 3rd years to speak about the Good Friday Agreement and Peace on the Island

What's one piece of advice you would give to your students?

What's for you won't pass you by.

If you weren't a teacher, what career might you have pursued?

I've had a few different careers before teaching. I've worked as an Archivist, Records Manager, Data and Information management and as a network engineer and those careers have brought me all over the world.

What's one thing your students might be surprised to learn about you?

I've signed official secrets acts for the Republic of Ireland Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland due to my work as an archivist. I've also worked on archival projects for Guinness, the ESB and the Northern Irish Women's Football Association.

Do you have a hobby or skill outside of teaching that you enjoy sharing with others?

If I'm not teaching then generally you will find me either on the GAA pitch or doing video analysis!

If you could have dinner with any historical or famous figure, who would it be and why?

Alex Ferguson, Páidí O'Sé and Charlie Haughey - Big opinions all around.

# Bunchloch Award Winners - September



The recipients of the Bunchloch (Student of the month) award for September at Greystones Community College were recently acknowledged at assemblies by each year head and team of class tutors. In our first Bunchloch assemblies of the year, all of this month's Bunchloch winners have personified the school's foundation stones of Respect, Excellence and Pride in all of their school endeavours.

## Junior Debating



Leonardo O'Sullivan, Donnchadh Eager O'Brien, Ciarán Finn and Barry Honan represented GCC excellently in the UCD Junior Debating Competition. This was their first experience of formal debating at this level. The team and Ms C. McGarry are already looking forward to round 2.

## Sport at GCC



Basketball continues to be a hugely popular sport in GCC. Block 1 saw the u16 and u19 boys and girls teams start their season. The u19 girls team had their first win against Woodbrook College. Unfortunately, despite four commanding wins out of five games, the u16 team lost out on progression due to points difference. The boys teams started off their campaign against CCM with a win for the u16 team.



Girls Gaa started off the year with a match against St. Davids. Their second match against the Dominican saw a huge number of first year students making their debut in a GCC jersey. Although, they didn't come away with a win, they have proven their strength and determination on both occasions.



Our Junior Camogie team had a fantastic day out at the Leinster School Blitz in SETU Carlow! The 1st and 2nd years played brilliantly and gained great experience playing against other schools from across the province. A huge well done to all involved and thank you to Ms B. Byrne and Ms Burns for their work with the team.



Soccer continues to be one of the most popular extracurricular activities in GCC. The 1<sup>st</sup> year boys started off their season in this block and have learned a huge amount from their first few outings. The u17 girls had a cup game against Alexandra College. The result didn't go their way but they took a huge amount from the game. The first year girls recently hosted Presentation Wexford which saw a number of GCC parents out to support the team.



Athletics events are always a huge source of excitement in GCC. So far this block, there has been four individual and three group medals. All coming from the same event, the cross country championships in Avondale Forest Park. Ms Broe and Ms Lynch are looking forward to the next event already.



Hockey is going from strength to strength in GCC. With Ms Hardiman and Mr Waters continuing to support the team, they have had a number of matches to date. Loreto Bray have kindly allowed GCC to use their facility for our home games which has led to many an exciting encounter on the hockey pitch.

# World Languages Week



Languages week was full of colour, culture & fun! Our first years wowed us with creative posters, while 2nd Years battled it out in a thrilling Spain vs France match that ended 1-1. Our talented 5th Years added extra sparkle with face painting, and every language class celebrated with music, food & games from around the world - all in honour of the European Day of Languages on Sept 26!

## Young Scientist

Students	Title	Age Category
<b>Technology</b>		
Nathan Hernandez Rovira and Calum Farrell	Helper AI	Junior - 2nd year
<b>Social and Behavioural Sciences</b>		
Sofia Flores, Jenny Givena and Ella Macek	Bringing Return to Travel: does the public want to use their bottle return deposits to top up their Leap Card?	Senior - 6th year
Annie Macek	The Unseen Healthcare - Trans Healthcare in Ireland	Senior - 5th year
<b>Chemical, Physical and Mathematical</b>		
Jack Walsh	AstroRim: Reconstruction of source objects in Gravitational Lenses via Physics Informed Machine Learning	Senior - 6th year
Jude Meenan and Oscar Moran	Vibrations to voltage: Piezoelectric power generation	Intermediate - 4th year
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>		
Harrison Lynch Reynolds and Elliot Wright	GeolImpact: Geometric 3D Printing for Shock Absorption	Intermediate - 4th year
Benjamin Junge and Jack Real	Too hot to handle: A deep dive into burns	Junior - 2nd year
Tyler Ferguson	SureStep Mat: Designed to help the elderly sit down safely.	Junior - 2nd year

We are beyond delighted to announce that eight student projects will represent GCC at the Stripe Young Scientist in the RDS in January. A huge congratulations to all students involved and their teachers, Ms Wray, Mr Cullen and Ms Hardiman. We are so proud of this huge achievement.

# Transition Year



## Team Building Day

To kick off Transition year, 4<sup>th</sup> year students participated in a teambuilding day with Go Beyond. The activities on the day were designed to challenge our students through a series of exciting and engaging tasks promoting good communication, teamwork, leadership & personal development.

Teams rotated through these tasks going Head-to-Head with another team. Teams accumulated as many of the available points before finishing the day with the Finale Task-The Bottle Rocket Challenge!



## Barista Training



All 4th Year students took part in a Barista Training Course with the Dublin Barista School. Students learned not only the skills to be a coffee artist and prepare and serve hot drinks but also important soft skills such as effective communication, dealing with multiple orders and self awareness. These skills ultimately empower our students and helps them to gain employment or secure work experience placements. This training day was enjoyed by all students.

## Criminal Courts Visit



Transition Year students visited the Criminal Courts and toured a courtroom, sitting in places such as the witness stand, jury box, and accused box. They learned the difference between a solicitor and a barrister, discovered that there is a holding prison beneath the court, and found out that "in camera" on a door means a private case is being heard. They were shown how the courtroom is arranged, learned the difference between manslaughter and murder, and heard that senior counsel are paid more than judges. They also learned that judicial assistants now often include law students gaining experience.



## Foreign Exchanges

Spanish students arrived in GCC excited to spend time with their host siblings. They explored Dublin and experienced the city's sights and culture. They also enjoyed a fun-filled day in Bray with bowling and laser tag, creating great opportunities to bond with their hosts.

We also welcomed 40 students and 3 teachers from Lycée Simone de Beauvoir in Gragnague, France. Students joined their exchange partners and penpals for an evening of music, dancing, and traditional Irish treats. Special thanks went to our talented singers, Ms. Kautzmann for organizing, and Ms. Byrne and Ms. Puente for helping make the evening possible. The French students then joined classes at Greystones Community College as part of their cultural exchange experience.



## Financial Literacy



Well done to Anna, Pola, Lucy, and Sara, who have been recognised by the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission as part of their "Our Money, Our Future" Financial Literacy Competition. They designed and created an original board game to help younger teens develop financial literacy skills in a fun and engaging way. We are so proud of their creativity, teamwork, and innovation.

## Higher Options Exhibition



5th & 6th year students travelled to the Higher Options exhibition and Careers in Aviation exhibitions. Students explored a wide range of further education options. It was an excellent opportunity for our Senior Cycle students to start goal setting for their upcoming Leaving Certificate and beyond. A bright future is ahead!

Thank you to Ms Conti for her work in organising the trip and for her ongoing support in the area of Career Guidance.

## Voter Registration Drive

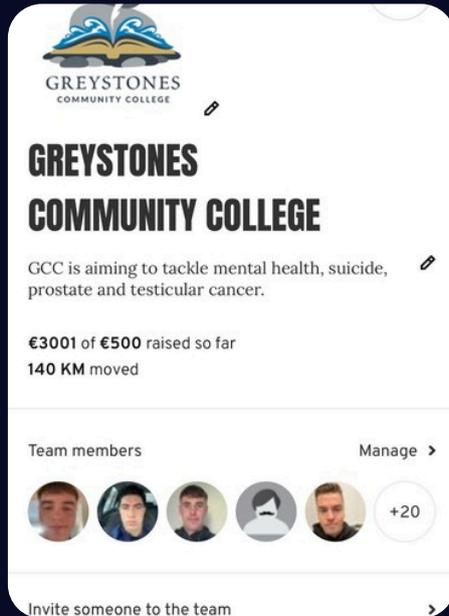
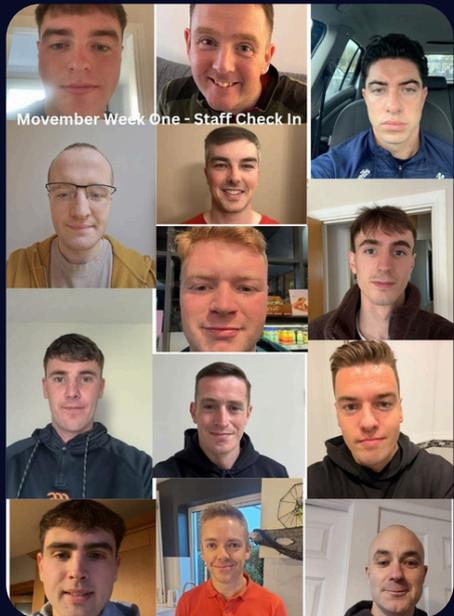
Well done to all 6th year students who applied to join the register of electors during our voter registration drive at Greystones Community College. Thanks to Wicklow County Council for their support in ensuring students were registered and able to participate.



## Mock Presidential Election

Greystones Community College held a mock Presidential election, giving students the opportunity to have their say in a simulated vote. Catherine Connolly was elected as the new student president. Thanks to everyone who took part and to Mr. Kynes and the 2nd year CSPE class for organising the event.

# November 2025



As of 11<sup>th</sup> November, staff and students have raised an enormous 3000 euro for men's health charities as part of the Movember campaign. Keep an eye on social media for weekly update. We would like to say a huge thank you for all the support so far. If you would like to donate you can do so by clicking [here](#).

## Staff v Students Football Match



Our first ever Staff vs Students Football Match was a fantastic event and a memorable moment for our school community. Well done to everyone who took part, both on and off the pitch. The afternoon was full of energy, teamwork, and great sportsmanship from all involved. We won't mention the final score, but the spirit of the game certainly made it a match to remember. A special thank you to Mr. Muies for organising and coordinating the event.

# Looking Ahead

Thank you for reading Volume 6, Issue 1 of the GCC newsletter. It is always a pleasure to share our ongoing journey with you, both here and across our social media platforms. Our students have started the school year on a fantastic note, demonstrating great effort and accomplishments already. We are excited for what the coming weeks will bring in GCC, including our College Awareness, Enterprise, and Acceptance themed weeks, along with our annual Foundation Stones Day Celebration. We can also look forward to a wide range of extra-curricular activities and enriching learning opportunities ahead.

## Block 1 Gallery

