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EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 4
BLOCK 3 - 2026



GREYSTONES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

School Newsletter



The Class of 2026 Graduate!

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AND MUCH MUCH MORE...

FOLLOW THE JOURNEY



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Welcome from the Principal and Deputy Principals

As we reach the end of another academic year, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a very successful and rewarding year for the entire Greystones Community College community.

Throughout the year, our students have achieved great things. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, through the arts, in leadership roles, or in community initiatives, they have represented our school with pride and distinction. We have celebrated many achievements and milestones, and it has been wonderful to see our students grow in confidence.

These successes are only possible because of the strong partnership that exists between our students, staff, parents and wider school community. We would like to sincerely thank our dedicated staff for their energy, care and commitment to providing the best possible educational experience for our students. We also extend my heartfelt thanks to our parents and guardians for your ongoing support, encouragement and cooperation throughout the year. Your partnership plays a vital role in the success of our school.

To our students who are currently sitting their State Examinations, we wish you every success in the weeks ahead. We hope you approach each examination with confidence and know that the entire GCC community is behind you. As we look ahead to the summer break, I encourage everyone to take time to rest and recharge. We look forward to welcoming our students back in the new academic year, ready for new opportunities and achievements.

Thank you all for your contribution in making Greystones Community College such a vibrant, supportive and successful school community. Together, we continue to make GCC a place where students can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Wishing you all a safe, enjoyable and restful summer.



Ms. Maria Lynch
Mr. Ruairi Farrell
Mr. Aaron Creavin

Message from the Board of Management Chairperson

As another successful academic year draws to a close, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who contributes to making Greystones Community College such a vibrant, welcoming and successful school community.

On behalf of the Board of Management, I would like to acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of our Principal, Deputy Principals, teachers and all members of staff. Your commitment to providing the highest standards of education, care and support for our students is evident every day and is greatly valued.

To our students, thank you for your enthusiasm, hard work and positive contribution to school life. I am blown away on each and every visit I make to the school by your positive attitude and your achievements across academic, sporting, cultural and community activities.

I would also like to thank our parents and guardians for your continued support, encouragement and partnership with the school. The strong relationship between home and school plays a vital role in ensuring that our students have every opportunity to succeed and flourish.

The Board of Management is proud of all that has been accomplished this year as we moved to our permanent home – a fantastic flagship school building. Together, we have continued to foster a school environment where students are encouraged to learn, grow and reach their full potential. To those students currently undertaking State Examinations, I wish you every success and hope that your hard work and preparation are rewarded.

As we begin the summer break, I wish all members of the Greystones Community College community a safe, restful and enjoyable summer. Thank you for your commitment, cooperation and support throughout the year, and I look forward to another successful year ahead.



Cllr. Louise Fenlon Gaskin
Chairperson
Board of Management

Message from the Parent Leadership Team

The Parent Leadership Team (PLT) has been busy behind the scenes since February, supporting our school community in a variety of ways. We organised a parent information evening focused on supporting students during exam time, which was very well attended and received. We also held a successful sponsored walk and assisted with several key school events, including the musical, graduations and TYFest.

Our school lotto continues to go from strength to strength. We were delighted to celebrate our first jackpot winner just as we moved into our permanent school building—a particularly fitting milestone. To thank our loyal supporters, we also offered a special end-of-year prize: a family pass to Kaleidoscope Festival for a family of four.



Ms. Lucy Pappas
PLT Chairperson

At our final meeting of the year, we began planning for an exciting year ahead. We are thrilled to announce that GCC Strictly Come Dancing will take place on 14th November, so be sure to save the date! We will also be hosting a social table quiz and a series of parent talks throughout the year. In addition, we look forward to working closely with the Student Leadership Team and considering their ideas and wishlist for projects and initiatives that will enhance school life for all students.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who generously gave their time, energy and expertise this year, and to all those who helped organise and support our events. If you would like to get involved next year and become part of our enthusiastic and growing team, our first meeting and AGM will take place on 10th September. We would be delighted to welcome new members and look forward to seeing you there.

Lucy Pappas on behalf of the Parent Leadership Team

6th Year Graduation 2026



It was a historic day for Greystones Community College as the first cohort of students graduated as the Class of 2026. The ceremony was a moving reflection on the journey from the school's opening to today, marking the highs, lows, challenges and triumphs along the way.

The event honoured the original 11 staff members and included a pebble ceremony, where each student added a stone to symbolise their lasting mark on GCC. Musical performances, supported by Ms Aoife Jones and Ms Hannah Salmon, added to the occasion.

Speakers included Dr Deirdre Keyes, Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin, Mr Ruairí Farrell, Mr John Blake, and Na Galláin Naomi and Callum, with the ceremony expertly hosted by MCs Amber Kilkenny and Jenna Rice.

A fitting farewell to the school's first graduates, with the reminder that they will always be welcome back.

We are incredibly proud of the Class of 2026 and will continue to support them through their exams and beyond.



TY Fest 2026



The annual TY Fest took place in the school's new building for the first time.

Students showcased their hard work and portfolios, which were viewed by parents, guardians and guests ahead of the ceremony.

The event featured musical performances, student reflections, and a practical demonstration on how to put up a photo frame.

Speakers included Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin, Mr Ruairí Farrell, Ms Isabel Puente and Ms Micaela Buckley, with Eva Gaube and Dax Fulmer serving as excellent MCs.

We would like to congratulate our award winners. The Buaic-Chloch awards were presented to Esme Lefort Finn and Tadhg Reynolds, while the Student Choice Award was presented to Oliver Butler.



Sports Day 2026



GCC's annual Sports Day was a fantastic day filled with energy, teamwork, and school spirit. From exciting races to a wide range of activities and team events, students showed great enthusiasm, determination, and participation throughout.

The sidelines were just as lively, with strong support and encouragement creating a brilliant atmosphere, especially during the final events.

A huge thank you to the PE Department and all staff for organising such a smooth, enjoyable, and memorable day. Well done to everyone who took part in making it a day to remember.



Changing of the Guard - Na Galláin



A proud occasion at Greystones Community College saw leadership pass from outgoing Head Students Naomi Wall and Callum Halpin Rooney to Anna Dillane and Morgan Durston. Following a full selection process, Anna and Morgan were chosen for their leadership and commitment to GCC values. We thank Naomi and Callum for their contribution and congratulate Anna and Morgan as they begin their roles.

Texaco Art Competition Success



We are very proud of first year Charlotte Halpin Rooney who won third prize in the 72nd Texaco Children's Art Competition in the 12-13 age category for her piece Winter Memories.

Charlotte's work was praised by adjudicator Pauline O'Connell for its detail and depth, capturing a winter scene in graphite. It was a special occasion for GCC to attend the media reception in Ballsbridge as young artists from across the country were celebrated. Congratulations to Charlotte on this fantastic achievement and to Ms Morton for her support.

Legally Blonde The Musical



What incredible performances from our Transition Year students as they brought Legally Blonde: The Musical to the stage, playing to sell-out audiences. The energy, talent, and positivity on stage and behind the scenes created a fantastic production and lasting memories for everyone involved. A huge thank you to Ms Jones and Ms Salmon for their dedication and leadership in bringing the show to life, and to all students involved in performing, staging, costumes, and production. We are also very grateful to our sponsors, especially SuperValu Charlesland, for their continued support.



Seachtain na Gaeilge



Seachtain na Gaeilge was a fantastic week of celebrating the Irish language across GCC. Students across all year groups took part in a wide range of activities, including performances from 2nd and 5th years, a trivia quiz for 3rd years, and fun class activities throughout the week. Our 4th years attended Fís 2026, while 5th years also led Irish-language activities with primary school students. A special congratulations to Mr Murphy, who was awarded for most effort to speak Irish during the week, with Ms Kinsella, Ms Duffy and Ms Lynch as runners-up.

Teacher Reflection: Ms Sinéad Brady

As my first year teaching in GCC comes to an end, I can honestly say it has been such a memorable and enjoyable experience. From the very beginning, I felt welcomed and supported by both staff and students, which made settling into GCC so easy. One of my highlights of the year was teaching the very first Agricultural Science class in the school. It was fantastic to see the students' interest and enthusiasm grow throughout the year, particularly during our trip to the National Ploughing Championships.



It was also very special to attend the first ever 6th year Graduation in GCC. Being part of such an important milestone in the school's history made it a really memorable occasion. I'm very grateful to be part of the community here in GCC and I'm already looking forward to next

Carlingford 2026



Transition Year students finished off the year with a trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre. From laser tag battles and kayaking adventures to taking on the Sky Walk, it was a day full of fun, challenge, and memorable experiences.

It was great to see students working together, stepping outside their comfort zones, and supporting one another throughout the activities.

The trip provided a fantastic opportunity for bonding and for students to enjoy a well-earned day out in the sunshine, creating lasting memories to end the year.



Get To Know Me: Mr Shane Vesey

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

My name is Mr Vesey and I teach Maths and Physics. I am also a second year tutor for 2Limerick. I have been teaching here in the school for the past two years and have really enjoyed becoming a part of the school community.



What made you decide to become a teacher?

My school ran a Maths Support Club and I loved going and working with others. I enjoyed helping people understand something when they were finding it difficult. Seeing others gain confidence after I had helped them felt so rewarding.

I knew that whatever career I chose, it needed to involve working with and helping others, and teaching felt like the perfect fit.

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

If I wasn't a teacher, I think I would have pursued a career in Children's Nursing. Before deciding on teaching, that was actually the pathway I had planned for myself. Nursing appealed to me because of working with and helping others.

I used to work as a care assistant in a nursing/care home, which I loved doing. In 6th Year, any of my CAO options that weren't Teaching or Maths courses were Nursing options.

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

One thing students always find surprising is how many siblings I have. I'm 1 of 8 kids. I'm the fourth oldest, with my only sister being the fifth oldest, so technically we're both middle children, though I like to claim the title because she's also the only girl!

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

There have been so many highlights over the past 2 years, from being a Gaisce PAL for TYs and helping with the school musical to the everyday fun and laughs in class.

If I had to pick one, bringing the 2nd Year students to Barcelona was the highlight of this year, a fabulous experience, and seeing Mr Flood perform at the magic show on the last night was unforgettable.

State Visit from Spanish Ambassador to Ireland



Europe Day was celebrated at Greystones Community College with a special visit from an official Government delegation organised by the Department of Foreign Affairs, including An Tánaiste Simon Harris and the Ambassador of Spain to Ireland. Students shared their experiences of European programmes such as Erasmus and a visit to the European Parliament, highlighting the opportunities available through the EU. The morning also featured musical performances from students. We thank all guests for joining us for this special occasion.

Brussels Trip



Twenty five 5th year students enjoyed a fantastic trip to Brussels, visiting the European Parliament and exploring key sites across the city. The itinerary included a walking tour, sampling Belgian waffles and fries, bowling, and a visit to the Parliamentarium, along with an informative meeting with MEP Billy Kelleher. Students also visited landmarks such as the Grand Place, Manneken Pis and the Royal Galleries. A great experience for a brilliant group of students.

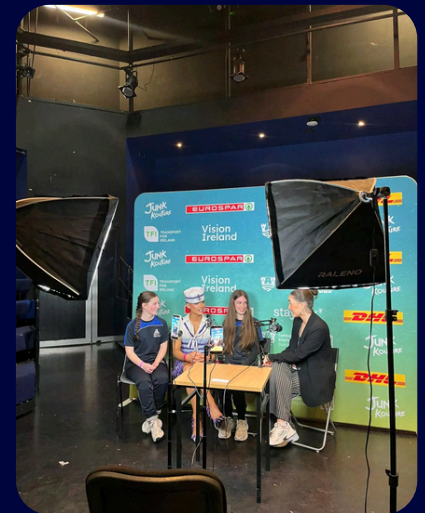
World Cup Qualifier



GCC soccer girls attended the Women's World Cup qualifier between Ireland and France at Tallaght Stadium, watching their heroes compete in a packed and electric atmosphere.

The evening began with a meal in Carrickmines before heading to the match, where an early goal from captain Katie McCabe gave Ireland the lead before France went on to win 2-1. The group also enjoyed the experience of meeting goalkeeper Courtney Brosnan and getting jerseys signed, rounding off an exciting and memorable evening.

Junk Kouture Regional Final



A huge congratulations to 4th year students Rhys Murray, Demi Hind Fitzpatrick and Muireann Reynolds, who represented GCC at the Junk Kouture Regional Finals in the Helix, Dublin. The students showcased their design with great creativity and pride. Thank you to Ms Downes for her support throughout the project.

Language & Cultural Exchanges



Transition Year students took part in a language exchange and a cultural exchange. The cultural exchange to Germany allowed students to experience school life and daily living firsthand. They also welcomed their German partners when they visited Ireland, giving both groups insight into German and Irish culture.

The language exchange to Spain gave students the opportunity to develop their Spanish language skills in an authentic setting, as well as host their Spanish partners here in Ireland, further immersing both groups in each other's cultures. Both exchanges provided valuable insights into Irish, German, and Spanish cultures, helping students to appreciate the similarities and differences between them.



Get To Know Me: Ms Julie McGarry

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

I teach Home Economics and Gaeilge. I love the combination of having a practical, creative subject alongside a language. I joined GCC in 2023 and have loved being a part of the team and community ever since.



What made you decide to become a teacher?

I was drawn to teaching because of the unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact across so many areas of school life. For me, it's all about the connections I build with my students. Especially in Home Economics, there is nothing quite like the joy and pride on a student's face when they master a practical skill—seeing that sense of accomplishment is exactly what makes this profession so rewarding.

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

I love playing football with my local club. I enjoy playing Spike Ball on the beach during the summer. And I love to make cards for a special occasion, each one a personal and new design.

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

I would love to have dinner with Meryl Streep or Aisling Bea.

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

The highlight of my year this year was bringing the girl's soccer team to Tallaght Stadium to watch the Irish Women's National team play against France in a world cup qualifier.

Another highlight has been running the Stand Up Week Art competitions, giving students the opportunity to leave a mark on the school with a permanent art piece and in turn leaving behind a legacy of meaningful and impactful messages through their creative vision.

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

Remember to be patient with yourself. Success is rarely a sudden leap; it's usually found in those tiny, 1% improvements we make every day. If you stay consistent and keep practicing, you'll look up one day and realize you've arrived exactly where you wanted to be.

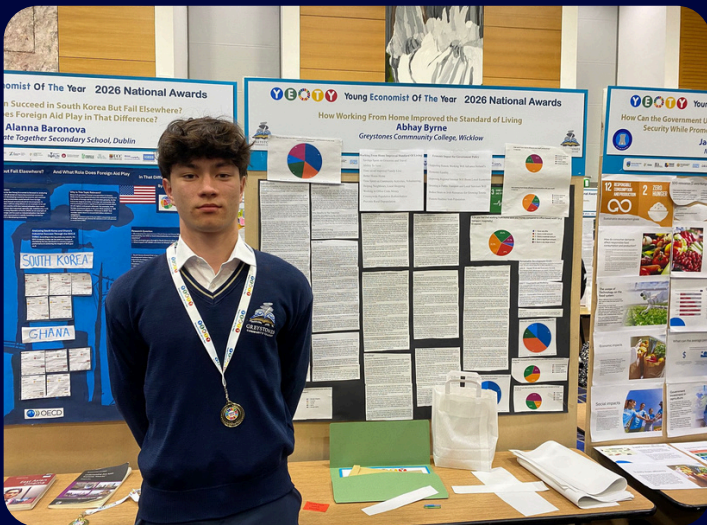
Gaelbhratach Award



We were delighted to hear the news that we have been awarded the Gaelbhratach in our first year of the scheme. This is a significant achievement which reflects the hard work and dedication of the Gaelbhratach committee in promoting the Irish language throughout the school.

We look forward to continuing to develop and increase the use of Gaeilge in GCC.

Young Economist of the Year



Congratulations to Abhay Byrne who has achieved first place in the national final of the Young Economist of the Year competition. His project explored the economics of working from home and its positive impact on standards of living.

His work was based on detailed research using data from sources such as the Central Statistics Office, the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service, and the World Bank. Abhay was awarded first place for Transition Year entries, with judges praising the quality and originality of his research. This is a fantastic achievement for Abhay, his teacher Mr Carroll, and the whole school community.

Sport at GCC



The 1st and 2nd year basketball season was an incredibly successful one for the girls. A special mention goes to the 1st year students who made their debuts! In a historic achievement, the 2nd year team won the South East Final, the Leinster Semi Final playoff and although they came up short in the Leinster final, they left with silver medals. They are the most successful girls team to date!



Soccer has had an exciting Block 3, continuing to be an incredibly popular sport in GCC. The teams and coaches are already looking ahead to next year, where they hope to repeat their success of this season. The highlight came when they hosted East Glendalough for an 8 goal thriller, with GCC coming out on top.



Athletics continues to go from strength to strength in GCC. A huge congratulations to the six students who represented GCC at the Leinster Schools Competition in March. A special mention to Ethan Bramhill who qualified for the the All-Ireland Schools Cross Country Event.

Teacher Reflection: Mr Chris Muies

My first year of teaching at GCC has been a brilliant experience as I was warmly welcomed by the students, staff and parents. This made the transition to a new school much easier.

One of the biggest highlights of the year was moving into our new school building in February. The new PE facilities have been a breath of fresh air and brought great energy to PE classes and school sport.



Coaching the 1st Year Boys football team was another highlight of my first year at the school. Seeing the students improve, work together, develop friendships and represent the school for the first time was great to see.

Another highlight was our Movember fundraiser, where the school community came together to raise over €7,900 for an important cause – an amazing achievement by everyone involved. The community links within the school are another great highlight, offering students the opportunity to utilise fantastic facilities in GAA, golf, tennis, soccer, athletics and rugby.

The 2nd Year trip to Barcelona was another memorable part of the year, full of great experiences and memories to last a lifetime. It was also great to help start the school's first Student Sports Council, who acted as extended members of the PE Department by bringing fantastic ideas and initiatives to the table. Block 3's DJ Club had tunes pumping every Tuesday afternoon, which was something different and enjoyable for students and staff alike.

Finally, it would be impossible not to mention the staff football team's victory over the 5th and 6th Year students – proof that experience beats youth, at least for one afternoon!

Thanks to everyone at GCC for making my first year an extremely memorable one.

Mr Muies

Sport at GCC



Golf is a new addition to the extra-curricular offering in GCC. Led by Mr Kynes, it is a sport that is growing in popularity. Pictured here are students who took part in Mr Kynes introduction to golf, where complete beginners could learn how things work on a golf course and give it a go too.



A huge congratulations to the 15-16 relay team who travelled to the Irish Schools Relay Swim Competition in March. They swam brilliantly on the day and finished in an incredible 4th place.



GAA continues to develop in GCC. Block 3 featured numerous GAA matches where students again showed incredible dedication and teamwork. It also saw students take part in a GAA blitz in Éire Óg. A popular sport in GCC, we look forward to seeing what they can do in the next school year.

Looking Ahead

Thank you for reading this edition of the GCC newsletter. It is always a pleasure to share our journey with you, both through the newsletter and across our social media platforms. As we look back on Block 3, it is clear that it has been a busy, exciting and memorable period for our students and staff.

Highlights of the block included the outstanding production of Legally Blonde the Musical, our Awards Ceremonies, Sports Day and the many other activities, events and opportunities that brought our school community together to engage, learn and celebrate throughout the term.

As this is the final newsletter of the school year, it felt only fitting to leave the last word to the Class of 2026 as they reflect on their time in GCC:

6th Year Reflections

Haylie Foley

From my first year to my last, secondary school became more than just classes and exams, becoming a place where I grew into leadership, sport and community, taking on leadership roles, captaining a sport I was proud to represent and being honoured at award ceremonies along the way.

Through four different school buildings, the sense of pride, dedication and school spirit always stayed the same, and watching the school evolve while growing alongside it made the journey unforgettable.

Jack Walsh

GCC has been a very positive school, the teachers and staff are all friendly and I have really enjoyed my classes here. I am grateful to the teachers and school community for all the hard work they have put in.

Amber Kilkenny

At the start of 5th year, I thought that all my weekends would be consumed by homework and the only thing that mattered was studying for the Leaving, but after passing these two years, I would do anything to go back. My connections with my classmates and teachers have developed into deeper relationships, after we've cried and laughed our way through studying and intense deadlines of art projects together.

Max Kelly

It was an odd experience, being the first year to do everything in the school but it was also the most character building time of my life.

Adam Kopec

One of my favourite aspects of my GCC experience has been the constant variety and change that the school has gone through during its founding years. I loved learning at the tennis club in first year, then moving through all our different temporary buildings, and finally seeing our new permanent building in sixth year - it's certainly been an unusual journey through secondary school but I've enjoyed every minute of it due to our unique and one-of-a-kind circumstances.

Yashwanth Thumula

It was an amazing experience throughout my years in GCC. I enjoyed making new friends and meeting new people.

Ellie Walsh

To sum it up in 3 words: Welcoming, social and enjoyable.