



'Where Your Child is Known and Cared For'

2025

Kilkenny City Vocational School **NEWS**

Email: info@KCVS.ie
Phone : (056) 7722468
Website: www.KCVS.ie

September - November



kcetb
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Chill Chainnigh agus Cheatharlach
Kilkenny and Carlow
Education and Training Board



Meet The Student Support Team



At KCVS, our Care Team is dedicated to supporting the well-being and success of all students. We work together to ensure every student feels safe, valued, and supported throughout their school journey.



Ms. Costigan
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL/
DEIS CO_ORDINATOR



Ms. Cottrell
HOME SCHOOL
COMMUNITY LIAISON



Mr. Fogarty
AENCO



Ms. Hayes
GUIDANCE
COUNSELLOR



Ms. Treacy
ATTENDANCE OFFICER



Ms. Corray
BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING



Ms. Lynch
WELLBEING CO-ORDINATOR

Need support?

REACH OUT





How we can help you



- Your wellbeing is our priority
- We will identify supports you may need
- Approach any of us or your Year Head or Tutor if you need support in any area of school or home life
- There are many teachers on our team with specialist knowledge that can help you
- Remember: You're never alone—there's always someone willing to listen and help when you share your concerns.

Need support?

REACH OUT



1st Year Coffee Morning

In September, Kilkenny City Vocational School hosted a First-Year Parents Coffee Morning to welcome the parents and guardians of the incoming students. This provided an excellent opportunity for parents to meet members of the school's teaching and support staff, learn more about school life, and engage with one another in a friendly and supportive environment. The morning was very well attended and served to strengthen the important partnership between home and school in supporting our students' educational journey.



1st Year
Coffee
Morning
2025



BFL Department: "Getting It Together"

Focusing on Organisation and Success

This term, the Behaviour for Learning (BFL) department ran a six-week programme with Junior Cycle students called "Getting It Together", designed to help students develop strong organisational skills to support their learning and wellbeing.

Organisation plays a vital role in helping students feel confident, prepared, and ready to learn. The "Getting It Together" programme guided students through practical strategies for managing their time, setting goals, prioritising tasks, and keeping track of their learning materials.

The BFL team emphasised that being organised not only improves academic performance but also reduces stress and builds independence.

By the end of the programme, many students reported feeling more in control of their learning, with new systems and routines in place to help them succeed.

A big congratulations to all students who completed the "Getting It Together" programme — and to the BFL department for rolling out this programme.



Students of the Week

Great Behaviour. Great Examples.

Each week, we celebrate outstanding students who go above and beyond to show kindness, responsibility, and excellence both in and out of the classroom. These students are shining examples of what it means to be part of our school community — demonstrating respect, teamwork, and a positive attitude every single day.



Celebrating Excellence: Our First Term "Best You Can Be" Awards

To mark the end of our first school term, we held a vibrant "Best You Can Be" awards celebration, honouring the incredible efforts and achievements of our students. The event recognised those who demonstrated outstanding academic performance, consistent hard work, and a commitment to personal growth. Teachers proudly presented awards to students who showed resilience, curiosity, and a drive to improve – whether through top marks, steady progress, or a positive attitude in the classroom. It was a moment to reflect on the value of perseverance and the joy of learning.

We also celebrated the wide-ranging success of students in extracurricular activities, from sports and music to drama and community involvement. These awards highlighted not just talent, but the dedication and enthusiasm that make our school community so special. The ceremony served as a powerful reminder that being the best you can be is about striving, growing, and supporting others and we look forward to seeing even more brilliance in the term ahead.



First Years Strike Gold in Positive Behaviour Challenge



As the school term wrapped up, students across all year groups had their eyes on one prize — the coveted end-of-term Positive Behaviour Class Reward. After weeks of consistent effort, teamwork, and respectful conduct, it was the First Years who narrowly edged out the competition to claim the top spot.

The reward? A well-deserved bowling trip that brought cheers, strikes, and plenty of laughter. Throughout the term, classes earned points for positive behaviour, including punctuality, kindness, participation, and respect for school rules. The competition was tight, with several year groups neck-and-neck in the final weeks. But the First Years showed exceptional consistency and spirit, clinching the win by just a few points.

Their reward day was packed with excitement as students headed to the local bowling alley. For many, it was their first time bowling — and the enthusiasm was contagious. Lanes lit up with friendly competition and some surprisingly impressive scores.

Staff praised the initiative for encouraging positive behaviour in a fun and motivating way. The reward system not only boosted morale but also helped foster a respectful and inclusive school environment.

With the next term just around the corner, other year groups are already gearing up to challenge for the title. But for now, the First Years can enjoy their victory — and maybe start practicing for a repeat performance.



Outstanding Success for KCVS Students in State Exams

Kilkenny City Vocational School is delighted to celebrate the excellent results achieved by our students in both the Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle state examinations this year. These results reflect not only the hard work and resilience of our learners, but also the dedication of their teachers and the strong partnership between home and school.

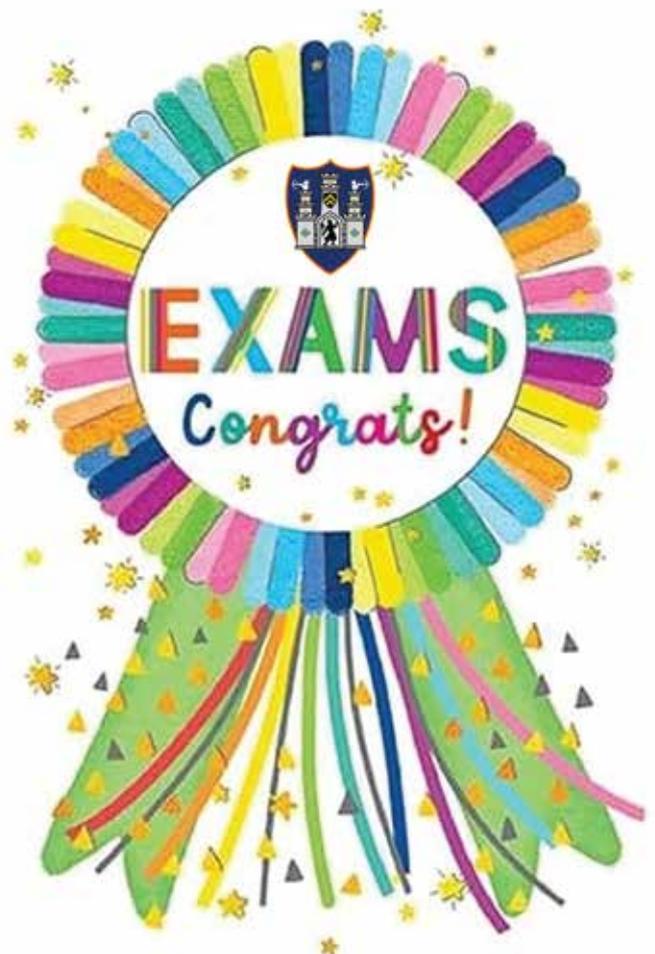
Across all subject areas, students demonstrated a high level of commitment and ambition. Our Leaving Certificate students achieved results that will open doors to universities, apprenticeships, and further education opportunities throughout Ireland and beyond. Many students surpassed their own expectations, earning personal bests and securing places in their first-choice college courses. Subjects across the STEM, humanities, arts, and vocational programmes all saw notable achievements, highlighting the breadth of talent within our school community.

Our Junior Cycle students also performed exceptionally well. Their results reflect steady progress and genuine enthusiasm for learning – a wonderful foundation as they move forward into senior cycle.

The Principal, staff, and the entire school team extend heartfelt congratulations to every student. This year's outcomes are a testament to consistent effort, perseverance, and a positive attitude toward learning. We also acknowledge the invaluable support provided by families, who encouraged and guided students throughout their preparation.

As a school, we take immense pride in seeing our learners grow, succeed, and realise the rewards of their dedication. These results reinforce the vibrant learning culture at Kilkenny City Vocational School, where students are supported to achieve their very best.

Well done to all our exam students – we are incredibly proud of you. Your achievements reflect the hard work, ambition, and spirit that define KCVS.



Celebrating Success in Junior Cycle Engineering at KCVS

The Engineering Department at Kilkenny City Vocational School is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our 3rd Year Engineering students who completed their Junior Cycle examinations in June 2025. The results received this autumn reflect the remarkable dedication, creativity, and problem-solving ability shown by this talented group over the past three years. With many students achieving Higher Merits and Distinctions, these results are a testament to their commitment and the strength of the Engineering programme at KCVS.



Junior Cycle Engineering encourages students to think critically and work practically. Throughout the three-year course, students have developed skills in design, manufacturing, electronics, and finishing – key areas that combine traditional craftsmanship with modern technological understanding. From their first experiences shaping metal and working with hand tools to advanced project work involving design software and electrical circuits, each student has progressed through a journey of learning that mirrors the real world of engineering and technology.

Teamwork and communication have also been central to their success. Students have worked collaboratively to solve complex problems, design creative solutions, and complete projects that required planning, research, and precision. These experiences have helped build confidence and resilience, qualities that extend well beyond the classroom. The process of bringing an idea from concept to completion teaches valuable lessons in persistence, responsibility, and attention to detail – skills that are essential in any future career.

The Engineering Department recognises the importance of connecting classroom learning with practical application. Many of our students now have a strong foundation for pursuing careers in mechanical engineering, manufacturing, design, electronics, and related trades or technologies. For others, the subject has instilled a lifelong appreciation of how things work, fostering curiosity and innovation – qualities that are at the heart of progress in every field.

The department would also like to acknowledge the enthusiasm and energy that this group brought to each class. Their creativity and problem-solving mindset made teaching and learning an enjoyable and rewarding experience. As they move forward into Senior Cycle or further training, we are confident that the skills, knowledge, and work ethic developed through Junior Cycle Engineering will continue to serve them well in life beyond school.

Congratulations once again to all of our Junior Cycle Engineering students on their fantastic achievements. You have set a high standard for future classes to follow and made the entire KCVS community proud.



Celebrating the Career of Elizabeth Thornton: A Pillar of Kilkenny City Vocational School

After decades of remarkable service to the young people of Kilkenny, Ms. Elizabeth Thornton has hung up her chalk and closed the door to her classroom for the final time. As she begins a well-earned retirement, the Kilkenny City Vocational School community comes together to honour a teacher whose dedication, compassion, and steadfast commitment has shaped generations.



Elizabeth joined the staff at KCVS in an era when classrooms looked very different, yet her approach to teaching has always been timeless. She believed deeply in the potential of every student who crossed her path, and her classroom quickly became known as a place of encouragement, fairness, and genuine care. Whether guiding exam students through challenging lessons or supporting those who needed an extra word of kindness, Elizabeth always met her learners exactly where they were.

Colleagues describe her as a steady presence, someone who could be counted on for wise advice, calm leadership, and a warm sense of humour. She was instrumental in mentoring new teachers, offering support far beyond professional guidance. She taught by example, showing how patience, respect, and understanding can transform a school community.

As she moves into the next chapter of her life, we celebrate both the legacy she leaves behind and the countless moments that made such a difference to the students of Kilkenny City Vocational School. Her work has touched thousands of young people and helped shape the strong, welcoming community that KCVS is proud to be today.

On behalf of the entire school community, past and present:

Thank you, Ms. Thornton for your years of service, your unwavering kindness, and your lifelong commitment to education. We wish you a retirement filled with joy, relaxation, and everything you deserve.



Cineáltas Anti-Bullying Week at KCVS 10th - 14th November 2025

This November, KCVS proudly embraced Cineáltas Anti-Bullying Week, celebrating the theme:

Bi Cineálta - Be Kind. Be Brave. Be the Power for Good.

Our Year Head Assemblies set the tone for the week, focusing on Anti-Bullying Awareness. Students revisited the definition of bullying, who to report bullying behaviour to and how each of us can be a power for good in our school community.

As part of our ongoing commitment to wellbeing and our anti-bullying preventative measures, students are also completing lessons from the DCU Anti-Bullying Centre's FUSE Programme throughout November. These lessons reinforce the importance of creating a safe, respectful environment where everyone feels valued.



Cinealtas Anti-Bullying Week was packed with activities designed to build empathy, connection, and resilience. Sport Against Racism Ireland (SARI) led workshops for our 1st, 2nd, and 4th Year students, who took part in an interactive workshop using sport to challenge discrimination and promote inclusion. Teamwork and fun helped break down barriers and build understanding about how we discriminate in our lives. Our 1st, 3rd, and 4th Year students enjoyed Chat and Connect: Speed Friendship activities, opening up about mental health and building new friendships in a safe, supportive space. Huge thanks to our TY Wellbeing Warriors for leading this inspiring event. Coach Kevin guided students through an eye-opening Digital Health Workshop on the impact of phone use and social media. Students reflected on their app habits, learned about risks, and explored how digital choices affect wellbeing. On the last day our 5 LCA students organized a teambuilding morning for 1st and 2nd year students as part of their Education Task. The LCA class also baked treats for the 1st and 2nd Years, for after their activities. Students enjoyed mixing and chatting across the year groups.

Cineáltas Anti-Bullying Week reminds us that kindness and courage are powerful tools for change. Together, we are creating a culture of respect, inclusion, and support at KCVS.

Let's keep being the power for good every day—because when we put our theme into practice, Be Kind, Be Brave, and Be the Power for Good, we make our school a better place for all.



Erasmus +

Three of our teachers recently participated in an Erasmus+ funded professional development project held in Malaga, Spain. This initiative brought together educators from Germany, France, and Italy, creating a unique environment for collaboration, learning, and the sharing of best educational practices across Europe.

The course centred on multicultural and intercultural education, exploring how empathy, inclusion, and cultural awareness can be embedded into everyday teaching and learning. Over the week, teachers engaged in a series of workshops, interactive field sessions, and group activities focused on:

- Promoting inclusive and empathetic classroom environments
- Developing strategies to foster cultural understanding among students
- Collaborating internationally to share and refine educational approaches

The collaborative, European dimension of the week was the greatest source of learning. By engaging with colleagues from different countries, our teachers were able to reflect on their own practices, exchange ideas, and gain valuable insights into inclusive teaching methods being implemented across Europe.

The week proved to be an outstanding success, both professionally and personally. Our teachers have returned with a renewed enthusiasm, practical strategies, and a broader understanding of intercultural education. This learning will directly benefit our students and the wider school community.



Mentoring for the Future: 5th Years Partner with Bank of Ireland

A group of 5th Year students from Kilkenny City Vocational School have embarked on their two-year Mentoring Programme with Bank of Ireland, run in partnership with Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI).



The students recently met with Jo, the programme co-ordinator, to learn more about what mentoring involves and how it can support their personal and career development. They took part in their first mentoring session, which included engaging team-building exercises and a chance to meet their mentors from Bank of Ireland.

The Business in the Community initiative aims to build strong links between schools and the world of work. Through regular meetings, workshops, and projects, students gain valuable insights into career pathways, develop communication and teamwork skills, and build confidence in their own potential. The programme also encourages students to set goals, explore future opportunities, and understand the importance of professional relationships.

This partnership offers an exciting and supportive space for students to learn from experienced professionals while preparing for life beyond school. This is a truly rewarding opportunity for everyone involved and we are very proud of our students for saying "yes!" to this opportunity.



KCVS Student Council

Student Council Elections took place on October 7th – using the real Irish voting system giving our students an opportunity to see and partake in real Democracy in Action!

Students got hands-on experience with PR-STV (that's Proportional Representation – Single Transferable Vote). Students from across all year groups cast their votes, ensuring that the council truly represents the voice of the student body. They filled out their ballots, ranked their choices, and watched as votes were counted, preferences were transferred, and winners were chosen – just like in a real election!

The whole process showed us how every vote counts and how democracy makes sure everyone's voice is heard. The election process encouraged active participation, leadership, and civic engagement among students, highlighting the importance of student voice in school decision-making. The newly elected council members include representatives from each year group, as well as representatives from our international students. They are excited to take on their new roles and responsibilities and be a strong voice for the students in KCVS.

To prepare for their positions, the student council attended their first training session with KCETB, where they joined Student Councils from schools across Kilkenny and Carlow. During the session, students learned about leadership skills, teamwork, communication, and how to effectively represent their peers. Through a series of workshops and collaborative activities, our students engaged in meaningful discussions on student voice, representation, and positive school change.

The training also covered planning initiatives, setting achievable goals, and collaborating with school staff. Council members left the session feeling motivated and well-equipped to make a positive impact in their school community throughout the year



6th Years Visit World Skills Exhibition at the RDS

In September, 6th-year students from Kilkenny City Vocational School travelled to the RDS in Dublin to attend the World Skills Ireland Exhibition. The event showcased a wide range of trades, apprenticeships, and career opportunities, giving students the chance to see live demonstrations and speak directly with professionals and training providers.



The students were particularly impressed by the hands-on exhibits, where they could try out skills such as carpentry, hairdressing, engineering, and robotics. Many came away with a clearer idea of the different career paths available to them after school, including the wide variety of apprenticeship and PLC options.

The visit proved especially valuable for the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) students, as it directly informed their third Guidance key assignment in information building. They gathered useful information, took notes, and engaged with employers and education providers, all of which helped them complete their projects with real insight and enthusiasm.

Overall, it was a highly informative and enjoyable day, and students returned to school inspired by the possibilities ahead. A huge thank you to World Skills Ireland for hosting such an inspiring and educational event!



Ace That Interview - Guidance Talk for 5th and 6th Years



Students in 5th and 6th Year at Kilkenny City Vocational School recently attended an engaging and practical session with Declan from Ace That Interview. Declan delivered a dynamic presentation focused on how to prepare effectively for interviews – whether for part-time jobs, college courses, apprenticeships, or future career opportunities.

He shared valuable insights on what to do before, during, and after an interview, highlighting the importance of preparation, body language, and confidence. Declan's top tips included researching the organisation or course beforehand, practising answers to common questions, dressing appropriately, and remembering to make a positive final impression.

Students particularly enjoyed the interactive elements of the session, where Declan demonstrated both good and bad interview techniques in a fun and memorable way. The practical advice and real-world examples helped students feel more confident about tackling interviews in the future. Overall, the talk was very well received, and students left feeling informed, motivated, and ready to put Declan's advice into practice. A big thank you to Declan and Ace That Interview for such an informative and enjoyable session.



St. Canice's Credit Union Talk - Money Matters for 6th Years

6th-year students at Kilkenny City Vocational School recently enjoyed an informative visit from St. Canice's Credit Union, who delivered a practical talk on money management and financial awareness.

The session covered essential topics such as budgeting, saving, and being smart with money, as well as the serious issue of money muling and its legal consequences. Students found the talk eye-opening and relevant, especially as they prepare to become more independent after school.

It was a very enlightening and valuable session, helping students understand how to make informed and responsible financial decisions for the future. A big thank you to St. Canice's Credit Union for sharing such important advice.



Study Skills Week with The Super Generation Team

As part of Study Skills Week in September, Kilkenny City Vocational School welcomed The Super Generation Team to deliver engaging and practical workshops for our 1st, 3rd, and 6th-year students. The sessions focused on helping students develop effective study habits, improve memory and concentration, and learn how to manage their time wisely.

For 1st years, the workshop introduced them to key techniques for organising their notes and building good study routines early on. The 3rd years focused on preparation for the Junior Cycle exams, with useful tips on goal setting, staying motivated, and using active learning strategies. Meanwhile, 6th years gained valuable insights into advanced revision methods and how to balance study with self-care in the run-up to their Leaving Certificate.

Super Generation's interactive approach and practical demonstrations made the sessions enjoyable and memorable. Students particularly appreciated learning new ways to study smarter, not harder, and many left feeling more confident and focused about the year ahead.

Overall, the workshops were a great success and an excellent way to kick off the academic year. A sincere thank you to The Super Generation team for inspiring our students to take charge of their learning and reach their full potential.

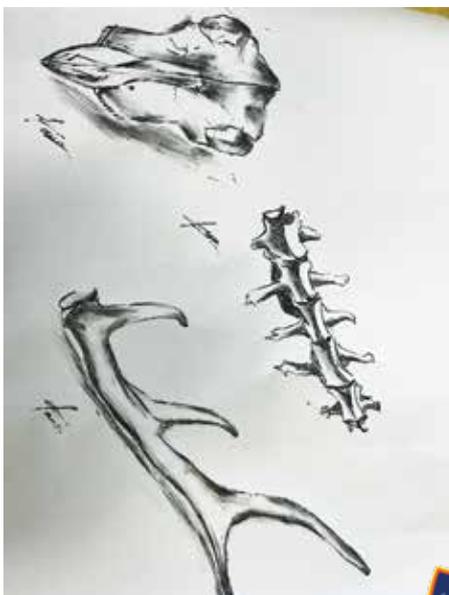


TY Art Participate in Kilkenny Arts Office "Art of Change" Workshops

We were delighted to be approached by Kathy from the Kilkenny Arts Office to take part in their Art of Change series — a youth initiative that empowers young people to explore environmental and climate action topics through art.

So far, TY Art have completed 2 of 4 workshops with local artist Sheila Jordan. Students learned about the fungus threatening our native ash trees and explored how to make charcoal from ash bark, producing beautiful tonal charcoal studies. They also experimented with making natural inks from materials such as beetroot, turmeric, and docks, and even created their own drawing tools from raspberry bushes.

It has been an inspiring experience for the students, combining art, creativity, and environmental awareness in a hands-on and engaging way.



5th & 6th Year Art Students Visit the National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology



Our 5th and 6th Year Art students enjoyed their first trip of the academic year with an inspiring visit to the National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology in Dublin.

The group had the opportunity to view real-life pre-Christian artefacts that they have been studying as part of their Visual Studies class. Students took detailed notes and made observational sketches of the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age artefacts they had previously explored in school.

It was a fantastic experience to see these incredible objects up close and personal, helping to bring classroom learning to life. This section of the Visual Studies course is particularly important, as the Pre-Christian Ireland topic is worth 50 marks on the written paper – one entire question focused on either the Stone Age, Bronze Age, or Iron Age.

A great start to the year for our talented art students – full of creativity, curiosity, and connection between past and present.



5th Year Art Take Part in the BLAST Programme

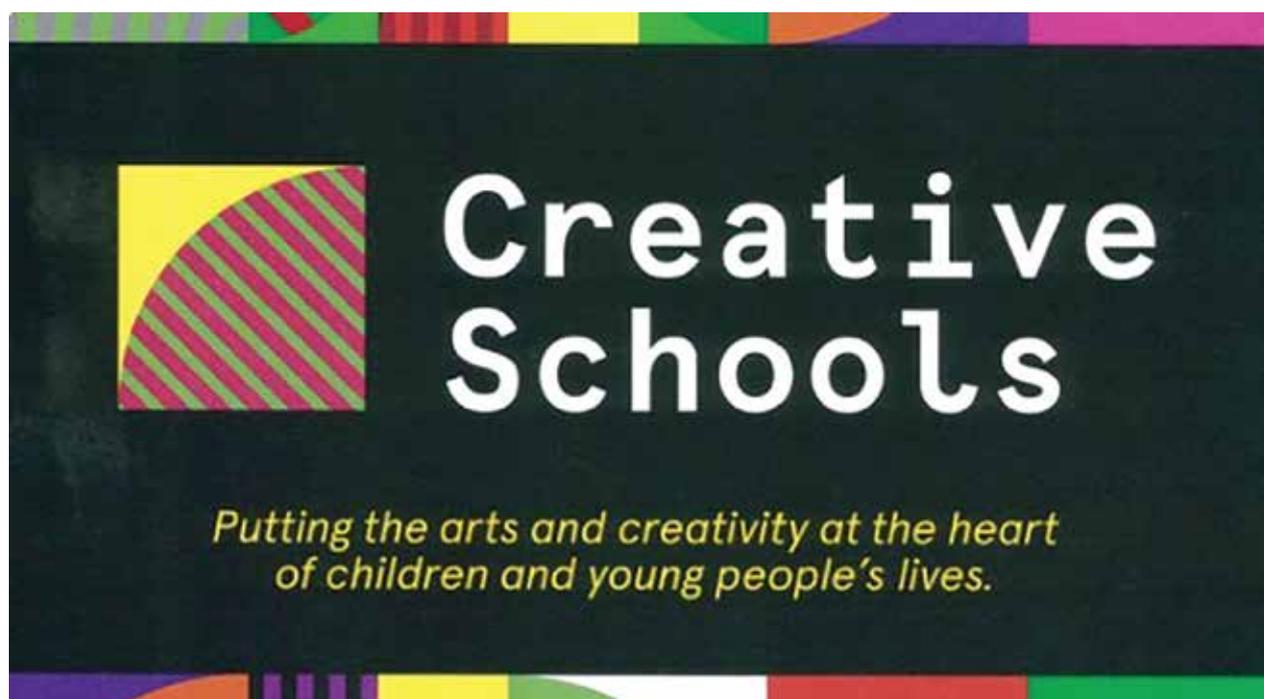
This year, 5th Year Art have been selected by Ms. May to take part in the BLAST Programme: Arts in Education, a project we are thrilled to have successfully been granted. This is a programme that connects students with professional artists through workshops, projects, and collaborative learning. Its main aim is to enhance creativity, artistic skills, and learning outcomes by giving young people hands-on experience with different art forms, materials, and creative processes.

We are excited to be working once again with felt artist Marika Manning, who we worked with two years ago. The 5th years have already had their introductory session, learning all about felt, how it is sourced, and exploring examples of different felting techniques and outcomes. The possibilities are truly endless, and felting could even become a potential process for some students in their Leaving Cert Visual Art projects next year.

We can't wait to see the creative projects the students develop and how the programme unfolds over the coming months.



Exciting News: Our School Joins the Creative Schools Programme!



We are thrilled to announce that our school has been awarded funding under the Creative Schools Programme, a flagship initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme, led by the Arts Council of Ireland in partnership with the Department of Education and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

This two-year programme aims to place arts and creativity at the heart of children's and young people's lives, enabling them to experience creativity as an integral part of their education. Participating schools receive a once-off grant of €4,000 to develop and implement a bespoke Creative Schools Plan. Additionally, each school is supported by a Creative Associate, who works closely with the school to guide the creative journey and ensure that the voices of students are central to the planning and decision-making processes .

While the specific details of our plan are still in development, we are currently awaiting training on the programme and are in the process of assembling a Creative Student Team. This team will play a pivotal role in shaping our creative initiatives and ensuring that the projects resonate with the interests and aspirations of our students and that student voice is heard and valued.

We are excited about the possibilities this programme offers and look forward to sharing more updates as our creative journey unfolds. Watch this space for more information.

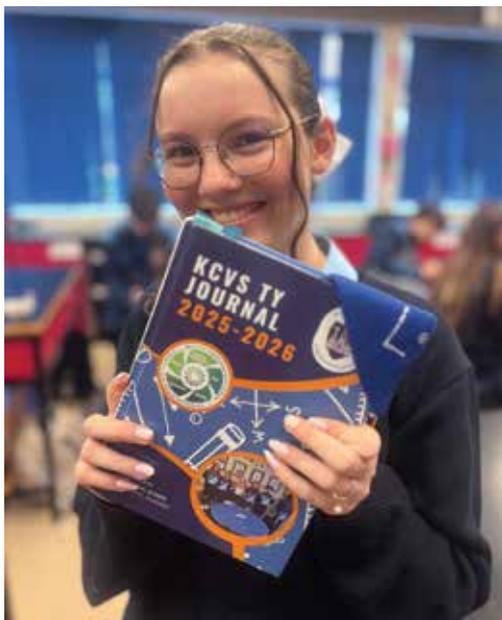


Crafting Creativity in TY Life Skills

Transition Year students have been putting their creativity - and practical abilities - to the test in their Life Skills module this term. As part of their craftwork project, each student designed and made a unique bookmark using a combination of embroidery and sewing machine stitches. The finished bookmarks are not only colourful and individual but also serve a practical purpose: they will be used to mark pages in the students' school diaries throughout the year.

The project gave students the opportunity to explore a range of textile techniques, from threading and operating a sewing machine safely to experimenting with different decorative stitches. Each student embroidered their initials onto their bookmark, creating a simple yet personal design that showed off their developing sewing skills.

Life Skills isn't just about craftwork, though. The module also covers a variety of essential everyday abilities, including basic kitchen skills, baking, and cooking. Students learn how to prepare simple, nutritious meals, follow recipes, and practise good kitchen safety and hygiene, all valuable lessons they can use both at home and in the future.



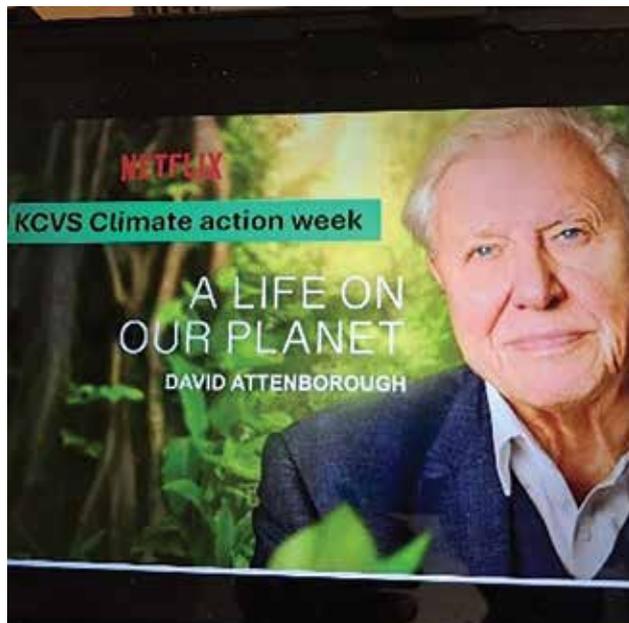
Gaelbhrtach Scheme 2025-2026

Cuireadh tús leis an scéim 'Gaelbhrtach' don scoilbhliain nua le coiste nua a bhunú. Sé sprioc an choiste ná chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn timpeall na scoile. Beidh spraoi, cluichí, comórtais agus imeachtaí. Táimid ag tnúth go mór leis na himeachtaí ar fad i rith na bliana!

KCVS is looking forward to engaging with the Gaelbhrtach scheme again this year. The committee are busy planning for the year ahead with the main objective being to promote Irish within the school community. Pictured above is our committee for the academic year 2025-2026.



Greenschools Global Citizenship Marine Environment



It was another busy term for the Greenschools Committee and we held a very successful climate action week from the 13 – 17 October where we had 5 actions taking place across the school involving all year groups.

Climate Action Week: A Life on our Planet

On the 14th Oct TY students watched a screening of "A Life on our Planet" by David Attenborough, this documentary looks back at Attenborough's life witnessing earth's natural beauty and the changes that he has witnessed in his lifetime in terms of destruction to Biodiversity and our climate and also his vision for the future in terms of restoring our natural habitat and ecosystems on the planet to make it more sustainable.

Students learned about how the planet has changed in the recent past and discussed ways in which we can make the planet more sustainable for ourselves and future generations to come.

Climate Action Pledges 15th and 16th October

On Wednesday and Thursday of climate action week we invited students to make a climate action pledge for climate action week during their lunch breaks in our pop up climate action hub in the school canteen. Students were given a climate action Bookmark in return for their climate action pledge. All the pledges are on display on our Climate action noticeboard for the remainder of the year. Many thanks to all students involved.



Climate Action Week: Plant a Tree day at KCVS (Wednesday 15th October)

LCA students planted an Oak tree for climate action week. The students very much enjoyed the tree planting exercise and they discussed the positive impact that trees have on the planet in terms of absorbing carbon dioxide while providing habitat for animals insects and wildlife.

The students were very careful to remove sufficient soil to allow the roots to establish themselves and to add some fertiliser and food for the tree to allow it to establish its roots and crown.

Climate Action Week: Bin it roadshow gum litter team (Wednesday 15th October)

The bin it roadshow team visited the 1st years in school and put on a performance for the students that focused on the importance of binning your gum litter and general litter when you are finished with it. The team also focused on the good work that the Re-turn scheme is doing across Ireland and how important it is to engage with it to reuse plastics and aluminium. The first year students very much enjoyed the performance and got to take part in several parts of the show.

Climate Action Week: Connect with nature walk to discuss Biodiversity and Wellbeing (Thursday 16 October)

Today for Climate action week a small group of our LCA students took part in a connect with nature Walk around Castle park in an effort to take time to connect with nature in terms of photographing nature in an effort to develop climate empathy and also connect in nature in terms of appreciating biodiversity and develop behaviours that shift us to make more climate conscious decisions like walking instead of driving, trying to reduce waste and where possible sourcing locally grown food or growing your own food.

Students also discussed the wellbeing benefits of taking time with nature and the fact that walking is a low impact way of living that supports slower more mindful living.



KCVS Students Gear Up for SciFest 2025 and the 2026 Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition



KCVS is proud to announce the entry of 11 Transition Year projects into the prestigious 2026 Stripe Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition. The qualifying projects will be announced soon, and as anticipation builds, our students continue to demonstrate their creativity, curiosity, and commitment to scientific research.

Before that, attention turns to the 4th annual SciFest @ KCVS, which will take place on December 3rd. This event provides students with an excellent opportunity to present their projects across a wide range of areas, including science, technology, social, and economic studies. It serves as both a celebration of student achievement and an important stepping stone towards participation in national competitions.

This year also marks a notable milestone for KCVS, with the inclusion of our first-ever 2nd Year team, reflecting the growing interest in investigative learning and the school's ongoing commitment to encouraging independent thinking and problem-solving among students at all levels.

The students' investigations cover a diverse array of topics; from testing toothpaste's ability to inhibit bacterial growth and modelling the economic fallout of volcanic eruptions, to examining bullying, exploring cultural diversity, and evaluating how best to integrate international students. Each project showcases their mastery of the scientific method and their commitment to applying science in service of both local and global challenges.

We wish all our teams the very best of luck as they await the qualifying results, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements at Kilkenny City Vocational School at SciFest on the 3rd of December.



Transition Year Science

As part of their Transition Year biology module, Ms. Mahony's students took part in an engaging hands-on project where they were tasked with creating a 3D model of either an animal or a plant cell. The aim of the project was to deepen their understanding of cell structure and function through creative and practical learning. Students used a variety of materials such as clay, cardboard, foam, and recycled objects to represent the different organelles found within a cell. They were encouraged to be imaginative while maintaining scientific accuracy, ensuring that each part of their model reflected real biological structures.

Each model included all the key organelles such as the nucleus, mitochondria, cell membrane, cytoplasm, and ribosomes, with plant cells also featuring a cell wall, chloroplasts, and a large vacuole. To complement their models, students created a clearly labelled key identifying each organelle and describing their function within the cell. This not only demonstrated their knowledge of the cell's components but also helped reinforce how these organelles work together to maintain life processes. Many students used colour coding or texture differences to help distinguish between the various parts of the cell, making their models both informative and visually striking.

At the end of the module, the completed models were displayed in the classroom as part of a mini exhibition. Students presented their work to their peers and teachers, explaining how they constructed their models and discussing the roles of each organelle. This project helped students develop both their scientific understanding and their presentation skills, while also fostering creativity and teamwork. Overall, the 3D cell model project proved to be a fun and educational way for Transition Year students to explore one of the fundamental concepts of biology in a memorable, hands-on manner.



TY Library Studies - Inspiring a Love for Reading

Transition Year students at KCVS have been engaging in Library Studies as part of their weekly programme, with a strong focus on developing a lifelong love of reading, personal growth, engagement with outside agencies and career paths. Each week, students visit the Mayfair Library, where they explore a wide range of books and resources, and learn how to make the most of library services.

Recently, students tuned into an engaging webinar led by Becky Long from Children's Books Ireland, which focused on finding books that truly resonate with young readers. From thrillers and graphic novels to fantasy and real-life stories, the recommendations were fresh, fun, and far removed from the idea of 'homework reading.' Students particularly enjoyed the variety and were inspired to try out some of the suggested titles.

In addition, students were introduced to Borrow Box, an excellent digital resource that allows them to borrow eBooks and audiobooks from the library, making reading more accessible and convenient. Reading offers countless benefits – it boosts focus, sparks creativity, supports self-expression, and provides a great way to relax. This initiative has not only encouraged students to read more but also helped them discover genres and authors that truly speak to them.

A special thank you to Kilkenny County Council Library Service for facilitating this inspiring and interactive experience for our students.



KCVS Quality Mark Journey with Belong To

Our school is now entering the final year of the Belong To Quality Mark accreditation programme, a nationwide initiative that recognises schools that actively foster a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for LGBTQ+ students. Through our ongoing journey with Belong To, we have committed to developing whole-school practices that promote equality, belonging, and wellbeing for every student. Since 2024, we have worked consistently to embed these values into our policies, culture, and daily school life and we are proud to reflect on the meaningful progress made so far.

Some of our key achievements include:

- Whole-staff e-training and in-person training: Every member of staff has completed both online and in-person training to strengthen our collective understanding of LGBTQ+ inclusion and best practice in supporting all students.
- Establishing a dedicated Core Team: Our Core Team has led this initiative with energy and commitment, ensuring the Belong To ethos remains central to school planning and activities.
- Annual participation in Stand-Up Awareness Week: Each year, our school proudly takes part in Stand-Up Awareness Week — celebrating diversity, promoting allyship, and encouraging open discussion around identity and inclusion.
- Guest speakers and student engagement: We have welcomed a range of guest speakers who have inspired our students by sharing their experiences and discussing important topics such as being an ally and challenging homophobic and transphobic bullying.
- Designated Pride Board: Our Pride Board serves as a visible celebration of inclusion, highlighting key messages, events, and student work related to LGBTQ+ awareness throughout the year.
- Comprehensive annual self-assessment: We have carried out yearly self-assessments involving staff, students, teachers, the Board of Management, and guardians. These reflections help us evaluate our progress, celebrate successes, and identify new opportunities for growth.

We now look forward with excitement to our accreditation visit on November 13th, 2025, as we take the final step in our Belong To Quality Mark journey. We are hopeful that we will be joining schools from across the country at the award ceremony in the new year, celebrating our shared commitment to inclusion and belonging.



Games Club – A Great Start to the Year!



This term, the Games Club has gotten off to a fantastic start at KCVS! Organised by our amazing TY Buddies, the club provides a fun and welcoming space for First Year students to relax, play games, and make new friends as they settle into post-primary school life in KCVS.

Every Wednesday at lunchtime, students gather to enjoy a variety of board games, card games, and team challenges. It's not just about having fun – it's about building positive relationships and creating a strong sense of community. The TY Buddies have done an incredible job mentoring and supporting First Years, helping them feel at home in their new school environment.

The atmosphere in the Games Club is always full of laughter and friendly competition. It's a great way for First Years to develop confidence, learn new skills, and connect with others outside the classroom.

Students especially enjoyed the Halloween-themed, fun-filled games, which were a fantastic way to round off the term.



EAL at KCVS: Supporting Language, Celebrating Diversity

At Kilkenny City Vocational School, we are proud of our inclusive approach to supporting English as an Additional Language (EAL) learners. Our classrooms are designed to meet the needs of students at all stages of language development, using strategies aligned with CEFR benchmark levels (A1, A2, B1). These include visual timetables, live translations, pre-teaching key vocabulary, and differentiated tasks that help students access the curriculum confidently.

We offer language support classes, team teaching, and homework choices to ensure every student feels empowered and engaged. Our welcoming committee and our focus on cultural awareness help foster a sense of belonging from the moment students arrive. We also celebrate linguistic diversity and encourage the use of students' first languages to build confidence and connection.

Through these strategies, KCVS creates a learning environment where all students—regardless of language background—can thrive academically and socially.



Yellow Flag Programme

As part of our Yellow Flag Programme, staff recently took part in an engaging and practical CPD session focused on anti-discrimination and creating a safe, inclusive environment for all.

This training was highly interactive, with hands-on activities and real-life scenarios that encouraged reflection on unconscious bias, equality, and intercultural awareness. Teachers worked collaboratively to explore strategies for challenging discrimination and promoting respect and belonging in every classroom.

The session reinforced our school's commitment to the Yellow Flag ethos—celebrating diversity, valuing every voice, and ensuring that all students feel safe and supported. This is an ongoing journey, and we look forward to embedding these principles further into our policies, curriculum, and daily practice.



SARI Workshop

As part of Anti-Bullying Week and our ongoing journey toward Yellow Flag accreditation, students in 1st, 2nd, and 4th Year took part in an inspiring workshop delivered by Sport Against Racism Ireland (SARI).

SARI uses the power of sport to challenge discrimination, promote cultural integration, and foster social inclusion across Ireland. Through interactive games and teamwork activities, students explored how sport can break down barriers, build understanding, and create a sense of belonging for everyone.

The workshop was energetic, fun, and deeply meaningful—reinforcing our school's commitment to inclusion, respect, and equality. A huge thank you to SARI for providing such a valuable experience for our students!

Together, we are building a school community where every voice matters and everyone belongs.



Stand Up Week 2025

From November 3rd to 7th, KCVS proudly celebrated Stand Up Week 2025 — a national initiative that shines a light on LGBT+ inclusion, respect, and allyship.

Throughout the week, students took part in a variety of creative and engaging activities, including friendship bracelet and badge making, a themed book club session exploring LGBT+ stories, colourful poster art projects, and a daily “Word of the Day” shared over the intercom to promote both literacy and awareness.

The highlight of the week was welcoming Alex and JP from the Emerald Warriors RFC, Dublin’s inclusive LGBT+ rugby club. They spoke with 1st, 2nd, and LCA5 students about the importance of allyship, teamwork, and finding your tribe — a powerful reminder that everyone deserves a space where they feel accepted and valued.

Stand Up Week 2025 encouraged all of us at KCVS to celebrate diversity, challenge homophobia and transphobia, and take pride in being allies. Together, we continue to make our school a place where every student can feel safe, supported, and proud of who they are.



Transition Year Update:

TY Portfolio Class

TY Portfolio Class started off the year with Vision Boards and Team-Building Activities. Our Transition Year Portfolio class had a busy and inspiring day as they began setting goals and getting to know one another. Students started by creating vision boards, outlining their hopes, ambitions, and personal goals for the year ahead. This activity encouraged them to reflect on what they want to achieve during Transition Year, both inside and outside the classroom. To help everyone connect, the group also took part in a fun "speed dating" exercise, where students rotated around the room to chat and learn more about each other. The activity helped build confidence, strengthen communication skills, and foster new friendships. It was a great start to the TY journey – filled with creativity, positivity, and a focus on independent learning and personal growth.

Kilkenny Castle:

On Friday, 5th September, Transition Year students embarked on an exciting educational trip to Kilkenny Castle, one of Ireland's most iconic and historically significant landmarks. The outing offered students a wonderful opportunity to learn about Irish heritage, explore impressive architecture, and spend quality time with their peers in the picturesque surroundings of the Castle Park.



Upon arrival in Kilkenny, the group was greeted by the castle's tour guides, who shared fascinating insights into the history of the site, which dates back to the 12th century. Students discovered how Kilkenny Castle was originally built by the powerful Anglo-Norman Butler family and how it has evolved over time – from a medieval fortress to an elegant Victorian residence.

During the tour, students explored the beautifully restored rooms of the castle, including the grand Picture Gallery, the Drawing Room, and the Library. They were particularly intrigued by the impressive collection of artwork and period furnishings that reflect the lifestyle of the Butler family. Many students commented on the breathtaking views from the castle's windows, overlooking the River Nore and the scenic Castle Park.

After the guided tour, the group made their way to the park grounds for a well-deserved picnic. The trip was not only educational but also an enjoyable social experience, helping students bond at the beginning of their Transition Year journey.

Overall, the visit to Kilkenny Castle was a memorable experience that combined history, culture, and friendship – an ideal way to launch an exciting year ahead!

TY Adventure Day at Dunmore East Activity Centre

On 24th September, our TY students set off for an action-packed day at Dunmore East Activity Centre! They took on a mix of land and water challenges, making the most of the beautiful surroundings. Students had a blast kayaking and paddleboarding on the water, braving the Wipit water experience, and testing their aim with archery. On land, they tackled tunneling obstacles and climbed to new heights with rock climbing. It was a day full of fun, teamwork, and adventure that everyone will remember!



TY Greenway Trip - Kilmacthomas to Dungarvan

Transition Year Students headed for Co. Waterford on 1st October where they completed an cycling trip from Kilmacthomas to Dungarvan. The group set off along the scenic Waterford Greenway, taking in the stunning views and fresh autumn air along the route. The trip provided students with an opportunity to develop teamwork, resilience, and an appreciation for outdoor activity. It was a great day out for all involved, and well done to the students and staff who took part.



Masterclass in Barbering with Lizzie McGhee on 2nd October

We were delighted to welcome Lizzie McGhee to our school for an engaging barbering masterclass with our Transition Year and LCA students. With 19 years of experience in the industry and appearances on Ireland AM, Lizzie shared her expertise and passion for hairstyling with our students. During the workshop, students had the opportunity to practice a variety of skills, including hair cutting, curling, straightening, and even creating the slick fades featured in the pictures below. The level of participation and enthusiasm from our students was truly impressive, making this event a highlight of the school year so far.

We sincerely thank Lizzie for sharing her time, knowledge, and inspiration with our students.

Segway Fun for Transition Years!

A huge thank you to Martin and his team from E-Movement for giving our Transition Year students an unforgettable day out! The students had the opportunity to try riding Segways for the first time, learning the basics under the guidance of the friendly and professional team.

Laughter, excitement, and a few wobbles were all part of the experience as everyone quickly got the hang of it. It was wonderful to see the students supporting each other, gaining confidence, and having so much fun in the fresh air. Days like this highlight the importance of trying new activities, building teamwork, and creating lasting memories. A big thank you again to E-Movement for making it such a memorable experience for our TY students!

Transition Year Students Explore Dublin Zoo

Our Transition Year students recently ventured to Dublin Zoo for an exciting day out in the city. The trip offered a perfect mix of fun, learning, and adventure, giving students the chance to experience wildlife up close while enjoying time with their classmates outside the classroom. From majestic lions and towering giraffes to playful penguins and curious lemurs, students explored a wide variety of animals and learned about conservation efforts around the world. Many took the opportunity to snap photos, share laughs, and make memories that will last long after the trip.

Stay Tuned for more action packed fun and memories!!



Girls Volleyball

The senior girls' A-division volleyball squad has enjoyed an impressive start to their season, building momentum with every match. Facing a challenging lineup that included Rockford Manor, St Louis, Holy Family, St Bridget's, and Coláiste Mhuire Ennis, the team has demonstrated composure, resilience, and continuous improvement on court. Their performances have showcased excellent teamwork and increasingly confident play, earning them a well-deserved place in the Shield competition following the group stages.

Meanwhile, the Under-16 girls' B-division team has launched their campaign in emphatic fashion. In the opening round, they secured a standout victory against local rivals Loreto, setting the tone for what promises to be a competitive season. Their energy, determination, and tactical discipline were clear throughout the match, giving the squad a strong foundation as they prepare for the next stage. Upcoming fixtures against Mountrath Community School and St Mary's Naas are already generating excitement, with the team eager to build on their early success.

At the development level, the 1st and 2nd year teams have begun training in preparation for their first competitive outings. With growing interest and enthusiastic participation at training sessions, the future of the school's volleyball programme looks bright.



Senior Boys Volleyball

Well done to our Senior Boys Volleyball team who reached the All-Ireland Quarter Final stage this year but unfortunately lost out to a very strong Cross and Passion Kilcullen team. The boys cruised through their opening round and played some fantastic volleyball beating Naas CBS and St.Mary's CBS in straight sets. However, in the following round, Cross and Passion, with a number of Internationals on their team proved too strong for the KCVS outfit. Special mention to Davyd and Patrick Nakonechnyi who have contributed massively to Volleyball in KCVS over the past four years leading the team by example and guiding them to an All-Ireland win in 2022.



TY Sports Leadership Soccer Blitz Brings Schools Together in the Fairgreen

On a bright and energetic day in the Fairgreen, Transition Year students from Kilkenny City Vocational School hosted an exciting Soccer Blitz for 6th class pupils from three local primary schools: St John's Senior School, St Patrick's De La Salle, and St John of God. The event was part of the TY Sports Leadership programme, designed to develop teamwork, communication, and organisational skills through hands-on experience.

The Fairgreen was buzzing with enthusiasm as students from all three schools arrived, ready to showcase their skills and enjoy a day of friendly competition. TY organisers had planned a series of short matches, ensuring that every team had plenty of time on the pitch and opportunities to rotate players. The format encouraged participation, sportsmanship, and fun over fierce competition. Throughout the day, TY students took on leadership roles including refereeing, coaching, scorekeeping, and managing team rotations. Their professionalism and energy helped create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for the younger students, many of whom were playing in their first organised soccer event.



TY Sports Leadership . . . *continued*



"It was brilliant to see everyone getting involved and having fun," said one TY organiser. "We learned a lot about planning and working as a team, and it was great to give the younger students a day to remember."

Teachers from the participating schools praised the initiative, noting how valuable it was for both the TY students and the 6th class pupils. The event not only promoted physical activity and teamwork, but also strengthened connections between local schools.



Scoileanna Cill Chainnigh Trials Kick Off for 1st & 2nd Years at Dunmore

Excitement is building as the Scoileanna Cill Chainnigh Gaelic football trials officially got underway this week at the Dunmore Training Complex. First and Second Year students from across the region gathered to showcase their talent, determination, and passion for the game — all vying for a spot on this year's squad.

The trials mark the beginning of a new chapter for the team, which will be coached this season by Mr. O'Flynn, a dedicated teacher from Kilkenny City Vocational School.

Over the coming weeks, players will take part in a series of skill assessments, drills, and match scenarios designed to identify potential and build team chemistry. The Dunmore Training Complex provides the perfect setting — a top-class facility that allows young athletes to train in a professional environment.

"It's great to see so many enthusiastic players turning up and giving it their all," said Mr. O'Flynn. "We're looking for commitment, teamwork, and a willingness to learn."

The Scoileanna Cill Chainnigh initiative continues to play a vital role in promoting hurling among younger students, offering them a pathway to grow in the sport while representing their schools with pride.

Senior Gaelic Footballers Compete with Grit at O'Loughlin Gaels Blitz

Our senior Gaelic football team took to the pitch at O'Loughlin Gaels GAA Club for a competitive blitz that tested their skill, teamwork, and resilience. Facing off against two strong opponents, the team delivered a spirited performance — securing one win and learning valuable lessons from a hard-fought loss.

The day began with a confident display against Coláiste Cois Suire. From the first whistle, our players showed sharp movement, solid defending, and clinical finishing. Their teamwork and communication paid off as they controlled the tempo and sealed a well-earned victory.

In the second match, the team faced a formidable amalgamation of Duiske College and Coláiste Pobail Osraí. Despite a strong start and moments of brilliance, our side was edged out in a closely contested battle. The opposition's physicality and depth proved decisive, but our players never backed down — showing heart and determination until the final whistle.

The blitz offered a valuable opportunity for players to test themselves against varied opposition, build match fitness, and strengthen team chemistry. With championship fixtures on the horizon, the experience gained at O'Loughlin Gaels will serve as a solid foundation for the season ahead.



Gaelic Footballers Power Through 6-Week S&C Programme at Nowlan Park

Over the past six weeks, our school's Gaelic footballers have been pushing their limits in a dedicated block of Strength and Conditioning training led by Kilkenny GAA coach Nathen Culleton. Hosted in the iconic Nowlan Park, the programme was designed to enhance athletic performance, build resilience, and prepare players for the demands of competitive football.

Under Nathen's expert guidance, students engaged in a structured regime that focused on core strength, mobility, speed, and injury prevention. Each session combined practical drills with education on nutrition, recovery, and mindset — giving players a holistic understanding of what it takes to perform at their best.

The sessions were tailored to suit the age and ability of the group, ensuring that every player was challenged while supported. From explosive sprint work to resistance training and movement mechanics, the footballers embraced each week with energy and commitment.

"It's been a brilliant experience," said one participant. "Training in Nowlan Park with a coach like Nathen really motivated us to push harder and improve."

The programme not only boosted physical fitness but also fostered team spirit and discipline — key ingredients for success on the pitch. Coaches and staff praised the initiative for its long-term benefits and the professionalism shown by the students throughout.

As the block wraps up, the players return to regular training stronger, sharper, and more confident.



Media Links



KCVS Website



Twitter



Instagram



Facebook





Kilkenny City Vocational School
New Street, Kilkenny
Email: info@KCVS.ie
Phone : (056) 7722468
Website: www.KCVS.ie

