



Greetings from St. Aidan's

As we approach Easter, it's hard to believe how quickly this academic year has progressed. The weeks ahead will see us preparing to bring another successful year to a close, while also looking ahead with ambition and purpose.

Our Third Year and Sixth Year students have recently completed their mock examinations and are now focusing fully on their Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate preparations. We are proud of the maturity and determination they have shown and wish them every success in the months ahead.

This term has been a particularly busy and productive one across the school. Alongside our strong academic focus, St. Aidan's has continued to enhance teaching and learning through a range of initiatives, including the expansion of digital learning in classrooms, wellbeing programmes to support students' mental health, and targeted study workshops for exam classes. Our dedicated staff consistently go above and beyond to ensure every student is supported to reach his potential, and we are deeply grateful for their professionalism and care.

On Saturday, 28th February, we were delighted to welcome 120 incoming First Year students for their assessment tests. It was wonderful to see so many young boys beginning their journey with us, and we look forward to welcoming them officially in September. Transition planning is already underway to ensure they feel confident, supported and excited about starting secondary school.

St. Aidan's continues to build on its proud tradition of academic excellence, sporting success, and strong pastoral care. Our students have represented the school with distinction in a wide range of sporting competitions and extracurricular activities this term, reflecting the holistic education we value so highly.

We are fortunate to have a proactive and supportive Parents' Council, and I warmly encourage any parent who may be interested to consider joining the committee. Your involvement plays a vital role in strengthening the partnership between home and school and in supporting your son's overall development.

The world our young people are growing up in is changing rapidly. As a school community, we remain committed to equipping our students not only with strong academic foundations, but also with the resilience, skills and confidence needed for further education, apprenticeships, and the workplace.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Aidan's. I wish you and your family a very happy and peaceful Easter, and I look forward to working together over the coming months.

Thank you

Liam Reilly



Easter Prayer

Lord God,

You loved this world so much,

That you gave your one and only Son,

That we might be called your children too.

Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace

Of Easter Sunday, everyday.

Let us have hearts of thankfulness

For your sacrifice.

Let us have eyes that look upon

Your grace and rejoice in our salvation.

Help us to walk in that mighty grace

And tell your good news to the world.





Accenture Careers Skills

TY students took part in Accenture's Careers Skills with Junior Achievement. Past pupil Sam Mahon was on the other side now interviewing our students. He took part when he was in TY. He's doing St.Aidan's very proud in his work with Accenture.



Blue Monday

Thanks to the Amber group for the time, creativity, and dedication in organising activities for Blue Monday on the 19th January which was a terrific success, especially the coffee van which both students and staff enjoyed.



Bronze Gaisce Awards

Mr. McCormack presented Daniel Tolster and Jamie Monk with their Bronze Gaisce Awards. Well done, a great achievement.



Senior Accounting Competition

Congratulations to Harjot Singh in 5th Year on winning our inaugural Senior Accounting Competition on Monday as part of this year's Business/Enterprise Week.

Getting Tossed About

On the 8th of January, an ex-police officer called Alex Walsh visited the school and talked to us about the importance of personal safety and how we should try to be respectful to others. He delivered a speech on his life story and why he gives these talks to schools now. He mentioned how he moved to London after his Mam left his family and how his Dad trained him to fight back if someone gave you a hard time. He left school and became a bricklayer and eventually a police officer. Now he travels to schools all around the country and speaks about problems that he sees in the youth of today.

The first half of the workshop was spent talking about how teenagers are influenced by toxicity and their parents and the damage that they cause to other people. He spoke about racism, homophobia, sexual assault and disrespectful behaviour. He gave us some examples such as shadow-boxing, threatening people, and sexual advances. He spoke about how kids now share and can access adult videos and the dangers that come with it. He spoke to us about the different laws that we could be breaking and how to stay safe and delete these videos.

The second half of the day was a class on self-defence. He demonstrated these techniques on students which gave everyone a laugh and then told us to pair up and try it for ourselves! We learnt how to throw someone who puts their arm around you, how to put someone on the ground if they get you in a headlock, how to kick and elbow people and also how to stop someone if they are being aggressive towards another person. He assured us that all of these techniques were only to be used if we find ourselves in a situation where we must defend ourselves or others. Overall, I feel like we all learned a lot about current issues and how to protect ourselves against them. And who knows, self-defence techniques may help us greatly some day!

Conn Lynch



Business Enterprise Competition

Well done to Angelo Lapitan, Joe Little and Marcel Moczerad from TY on winning our annual Student Enterprise Competition. They will now go on to represent St. Aidan's in the Student Enterprise Programme Dublin City Final in March.



Annual Trade Fair

TY hosted our 4th Annual TY Trade Fair showcasing 26 companies, one company was chosen to represent St. Aidan's in the Student Enterprise Programme in the Dublin City Final.

Well done to all involved for showing us your creative company ideas and products. Teachers left work that Friday after purchasing lots of products from the fair that no doubt they are still using today.



Green Schools Three for the Sea

The Green Schools Committee is a bold group of students promoting sustainability and awareness of environmental issues, achieving this as they take practical action here in St. Aidan's CBS. One of the finest examples of their outstanding work took place on March 10 when the students headed over to Bull Island for a clean-up. In collaboration with the Bull Island Action Group, the boys strolled across the island with litter pickers on a sunny yet windy day, doing good for the environment as they filled up whole bags with litter unfortunately left across the scenic place. As a reward, the boys headed over to the Happy Out Cafe where they were treated to free hot chocolates. In a world in need of proper environmental action, the Green Schools Committee strives to make a difference.

- Iosif Luca, 6W/6E





Bí Cineálta Poster Winner

Congratulations to Iosif Luca, a 6th year student on winning our recent Bí Cineálta poster competition and on helping to raise awareness of the updated anti-bullying policy.

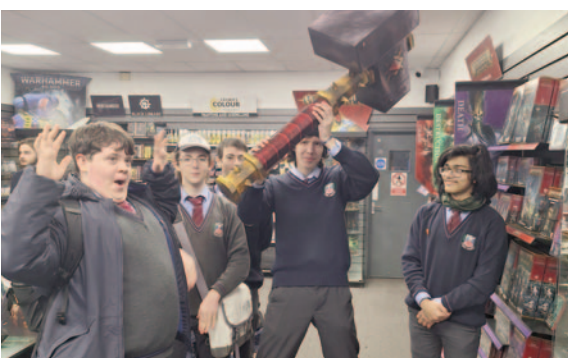
Hamper Winners

Congratulations to Brian Ando (2W), winner of the Christmas Hamper with ticket number 413. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets. Together, you raised €500 for Focus Ireland, supporting their work to reduce poverty and homelessness across Ireland. Well done to the Student Council, particularly Jamie Monk, but also well supported by Max Hourigan, Alex Chiriac and Saad Muhammad.

Warhammer Club on Tour

Founded just only last year, the Warhammer Club in St. Aidans's is a unique club that not only attracted a select few interested or curious about the matter, but also built a strong, vibrant and active circle of students sharing their bold passion for this intriguing table-top game. Luckily for them, they were offered the one-of-a-kind opportunity across two trips in January to the Warhammer store in the city centre. The delighted boys got the chance to spend the day engaging in the basics, learning more about the game, and overall having a wonderful time.

Even with this just being the club's first year, broader opportunities await for the boys in times ahead with hopes of reaching out to other schools. *Iosif Luca 6th year*



Making Memories Cafe

As a transition year student, I was given the opportunity to go and volunteer at the Making Memories Cafe. My experience at the cafe was nothing less than spectacular as my peers and I had a fantastic time chatting and serving the people who came. I was able to take many things away from my time at the cafe. I was asked about how I found my time in Ireland, and how I found the difference in schooling, but the best part was without a doubt listening to the stories that the people told me.

I truly believe that I have gained a new perspective on school from the people around me. I was told about life before the points system was introduced and how it worked. I learned about their jobs and their families and how secondary names were based on your generation in the family. Overall I had a wonderful experience and would recommend to anyone looking to give to their community, to consider taking a day or two out of your year and volunteer.

- Ayden Stewart.

Turas Gaeltachta

Muintir Bhliain a Sé headed off again, a little later than usual, to beautiful Baile an Fheirtéaraigh, Co. Chiarraí on the last weekend in Mí Fheabhra. As usual on these trips buachaillí Scoil Aodháin were incredibly polite and good-spirited. They really turned the craic up to 90 at the céilí gach oíche. Cupid might even have been pointing his arrows at a few couples.





Student Council Update

For the Student Council, the third term of the year is when we truly hit our stride. With no First Year elections to organise and no major end-of-year exams approaching just yet, we have full access to our dedicated council members. This allows us to work more productively and efficiently than ever.



This term has involved a significant amount of planning for upcoming events, including the Talent Show on Friday 20th March and International Day on Thursday 23rd April. Planning for these events begins early, as there are many moving parts and variables that must be considered. The Student Council will also continue to support other important events throughout the year, such as the End-of-Year Awards Night, the 6th Year Graduation, and the various parent-teacher meetings.

The BÍ Cineálta Poster Competition recently concluded, and we are delighted

to share that two of our own Student Council members achieved top placements. Iosif Luca received 1st place and Blake Gonzaga placed 3rd. Iosif's winning poster will be displayed throughout the school to promote the BÍ Cineálta initiative and its message. In addition, the Student Council is currently working on creating a more student-friendly version of the BÍ Cineálta policy, as the original document is quite detailed and lengthy. Our aim is to make the policy more accessible so that students and others can better understand the initiative. All competition entries are now permanently displayed near the Art Room, with the winning poster taking centre stage.

In terms of school governance, the Student Council has also recently reviewed and ratified a number of important school policies that contribute to the smooth and effective running of our school community.

This term, the Student Council is also very pleased to welcome Ms. Scully as our new Student Council Co-Coordinator. Ms. Scully has already supported several initiatives, including the Talent Show and the Student Council noticeboard. We are delighted to have her on board, as new perspectives and ideas are always valuable. Interestingly, Ms. Scully herself was a member of her own secondary school's Student Council.

The Council has also been working to strengthen communication with The Dominicans, with the hope of establishing an annual meeting between the two schools' Student Councils. This would allow both councils to share ideas, learn from one another, and ultimately benefit our school communities.

On 19th January, we were honoured

to welcome local TD Rory Hearné to the school. Rory met with members of the Student Council, the Amber Group, the Green Schools Committee, and the Debate Team. During his visit, we held an open discussion on a range of important topics, including climate issues, preventing homelessness, child and family poverty, and the recent proposal to lower the voting age to 16. Rory showed great interest in hearing young people's perspectives and discussing issues that directly affect students at St. Aidan's. We hope to welcome him back again in the near future.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who continues to participate in and support Student Council events and fundraising initiatives. All funds raised go directly back into improving the student experience. The Student Council remains committed to ensuring that student voice is heard at St. Aidan's, and we are very proud of the work accomplished so far this year. As we approach the end of the academic year, we look forward to continuing this work with even greater energy and enthusiasm.





Scoil Aodhán 1st Year Football Winners



Scoil Aodhán emerged victorious after a dramatic and skillful encounter with Maynooth Community College in Abbotstown, claiming a hard-earned two-point win in a contest that kept spectators on edge until the final whistle. Playing against a strong breeze in the opening half, Aodhán started with purpose and intensity. Their early dominance was rewarded when captain Frank Burke kicked the ball into the net.

Maynooth responded through their dangerous full-forward line, registering two well-taken goals. One arrived after a scramble on the Aodhán end line, where a Maynooth attacker applied the final touch to push the ball over the line. That

scramble on the Aodhán end line, where a Maynooth attacker applied the final touch to push the ball over the line. That surge saw Maynooth move 3-1 to 1-1 in front.

Aodhán responded positively and finished the half strongly. A precise kick pass into the full-forward line found Lúic Woods, who rifled an unstoppable shot to the roof of the net. However, Maynooth used the advantage of the breeze to add the final point of the half, taking a four-point lead into the interval.

With the wind at their backs in the second half, Aodhán increased the tempo. Daniel Collins was outstanding in defence, while half-time substitute Zach Jenkinson made a vital contribution in the half-forward line. Despite sustained pressure, Maynooth continued to add scores and kept Aodhán at arm's length.

A decisive spell followed. After a flurry of attacking play, Aodhán struck twice for goals, both finished by the inspirational Frank Burke. The first came following excellent work by Ísa Hannon, while the second showcased Burke's individual brilliance. Yet again, Maynooth responded with points to maintain a narrow advantage.

With six minutes remaining, following a heavy collision involving the tireless Finn Gannon, Aodhán trailed by two points. After a missed opportunity, Ísa Hannon stepped up with a free from the two-point arc with three minutes to play. The strike, carried by the breeze, appeared to be dropping short but caused panic in the square.

After a scramble, the ball found the net — Aodhán's fifth goal of the game — pushing them one point ahead.

Then Captain Burke in his kick-out calmly added a crucial point.

Maynooth launched one final assault. A sweeping move from their goalkeeper carved open the Aodhán defence, but a close-range effort struck the post. In the final moments, Maynooth were awarded a free directly in front of the posts from close range. With the last kick of the game, the effort drifted agonisingly wide.

The final whistle confirmed a memorable 5-8 to 4-9 victory for Scoil Aodhán in a contest that epitomised resilience, belief and the spirit of schools' football. Both teams can take great pride in an outstanding sporting occasion.



Scoil Aodhán Panel

Hudson Geoghegan, Liam Kavanagh, Ruairí Steele, Daniel Collins, Jamie Flynn, Finn Gannon, Seth Brazil, Frank Burke (3-2), Colm Bridgeman, Harry Keane, Ísa Hannon (1-2), Conor Reilly, Lúic Woods (1-2), Jamie Gibbons, Fionn Holly (0-1).
 Subs: Samuel Moore, Kyle Roche, Abin Jobi, Dominic Mathew, Conor Costello, Zach Jenkinson, Zach Kennedy, Joseph Herron (0-1), Alex Gardiner Marmion, Rian Cooling, Alfie Dunne, Fionn Harkin, Cian Joyce, Ryan McKenna, Thomas Shields, Cillian McDonnell.





Badminton

A huge congratulations to the U16 Badminton team and their coaches Ms Askins and Mr Ryan on their terrific win in the Dublin final in early February and also the title-winning whitewash of St Benildus.



Dublin U16 Champion Hurlers

The hurling team had a very good run this year, sadly our Dublin U16 champion hurlers ran into a very strong Callan team and bowed out in December of the Leinster competition. They can still be proud of their achievements this year and a big thanks to their coaches, Mr Purcell and Mr Noonan. They are a very skillful team and we look forward to some more exciting hurling games from them next term.

The U14 hurlers are still in the Dublin A championship at the moment and have been unlucky against very strong opposition in recent games.



Black Belts



L-R Andrew Byrne (3rd year) and Daniel Dunne (2nd year) our two students from St. Aidan's who train in our club passed their black belt grading last Sunday. This is a great achievement for the two lads and it is a culmination of years of hard work.

Cool Hand Luke

Luke Maher is in 2 West and has been playing darts since September 2024. He attends the D7 Youth Darts Academy in Cabra, Dublin 7, where his Dad is his coach. Luke attended trials in 2025 with the hope of qualifying for the Dublin team which would compete in the youths Leinster's and All Ireland's in 2026. He was successful in making the Dublin A panel for both of these events. In January his Dublin side were narrowly beaten in the last eight by the eventual finalists, Kilkenny.

In March he travelled to Ballinasloe to compete in the Irish National Darts Organisation (INDO) Inter County Youths Championship. Luke's Dublin side were victorious and are now All Ireland Champions, courtesy of a hard fought victory over Carlow in the final (Carlow were aiming for 4 in a row).

He is performing for his county at such a high level. Darts at youth level has exploded over the last few years, in the D7 academy alone there are 55 youths from the ages of 9 to 17 attending weekly. Luke's Dublin panel of six included three 14 year olds and two 15 year olds which makes their feat of winning even more impressive. His achievement of being in an All-Ireland Final of any description is truly remarkable.



LCA Football Tournament

As part of their LCA task, the students of LCA organised a lively football tournament for the 2nd year which took place on the astro pitch before Christmas holidays. The matches were competitive and full of fun, with students showing enthusiasm, bonding along with their classmates and demonstrating strong teamwork. The event was a great success, well co-ordinated by the LCA group and brought plenty of festive spirit to the year group, making it a memorable activity for everyone to participate in. The lively atmosphere and energetic participation truly reflected the hard work and planning put in by the organisers.

Haider Ishfaq, 5 LCA



Leinster Champions 2026

Earlier in the year Mr. O'Neill spoke about his teams being in transition. It looks like that period is now over and the Aidan's athletes are getting used to the view from the podium. The Athletics department was refreshed this year with new members, new vests and a new programme.

The team showed a lot of promise before Christmas, winning medals at the Newbridge Relays, Clonliffe Invitational and DCU Invitational. They won Overall Best School at the North Leinster Cross Country and our First Years produced a stunning performance to win the Leinster title on February 27th. They also travelled to the All-Ireland Cross Country Finals in Belfast in early March. Well done to our U14s who represented the school with pride and finished 7th overall.

Following this the team will turn their attention to the highly competitive Track and Field season where more success is sure to follow. Ms. Finn and Mr. O'Neill would like to thank all squad members for their commitment during XC season.





Lifesaving Club



Congratulations to young Max Penlington, member of St John Berchman's Lifesaving Club who represented St Aidan CBS in the Leinster Schools finals on the 11th February and won gold in Swim and Tow and overall categories.

Senior Soccer



Our senior soccer team had an excellent start to the season with four wins from four games.

The team's determination continued with a relentless 4-1 win over Pobail Scoil Setanta in January. They then progressed to the Leinster Cup Quarter Final. Despite a passionate and dedicated effort from our Senior Soccer team, they bowed out of the Leinster Cup Quarter Final after a 4-3 defeat on penalties, following a 3-3 draw after extra time. We at St. Aidan's are so proud of the team. Thanks to the sponsor Smith & Butler Estates for our new kit this season and to the coaches, in particular Mr. Kelly.

We also give a special thank you to the 6th years who played their last game for St. Aidan's.

We hope you leave with some great memories.

Past Pupil News



Well done to our past pupil Tom Breslin who competed at the European Championships in early December in Portugal. Tom has already won U17 All Ireland Schools gold and also his Senior All Ireland gold he won for the school. We are very proud of all his achievements.

