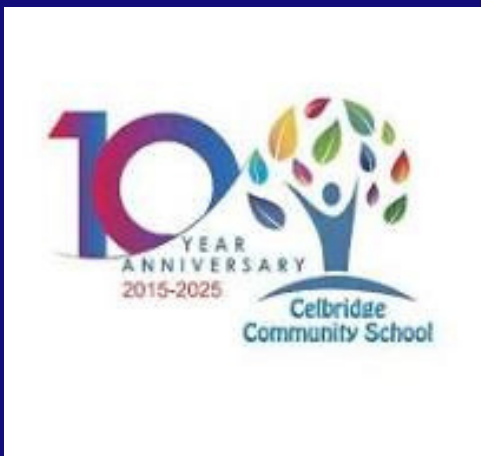




Celbridge Community School
Moortown, Celbridge,
Co. Kildare
W23 K2E6

Celbridge

Community School

Summer Newsletter 2026



Message from the Principal



Dear Parents, Guardians, Students and Friends of our School Community,

As we reach the end of another very successful academic year, I am delighted to share with you this edition of our Summer Newsletter, which highlights the many achievements, experiences and memorable moments that have taken place across our school community in recent months.

This year has been one filled with energy, commitment and growth. Our students have engaged wholeheartedly in their learning, demonstrated resilience in preparation for examinations, and embraced the wide range of opportunities available to them both inside and outside the classroom. From the excellent work in classrooms, such as collaborative learning in subjects like English and Music, to the dedication shown by students sitting Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate examinations, it is clear that the culture of effort and aspiration in our school continues to thrive.

We are especially proud of our Leaving Certificate students as they conclude their journey with us. Their graduation celebrations and final days in school reflected not only their achievements but also the strong relationships they have built over their time here. We wish them every success and happiness as they move on to the next stage of their lives.

Our Transition Year students have, as always, embraced the spirit of exploration and innovation. Their experiences, from educational visits such as the Dáil trip to participation in programmes like Duchas, have deepened their understanding of community, citizenship and personal development. We also celebrate outstanding individual achievements, including international success in STEM competitions, which showcase the exceptional talent within our student body.

The vibrancy of school life has been evident in so many ways this term. LCA achievements, awards ceremonies, sports day, trips and countless co-curricular activities. These moments reflect the core of what we strive to achieve, providing a well-rounded educational experience where every student can feel valued, supported and encouraged to succeed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for their dedication and professionalism throughout the year, our parents and guardians for their ongoing support, and most importantly, our students for their enthusiasm, positivity and commitment to school life.

As we head into the summer break, I wish you all a safe, restful and enjoyable holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another exciting year ahead.

Is mise, le meas
Gerard O'Leary
Principal



Learning and Teaching



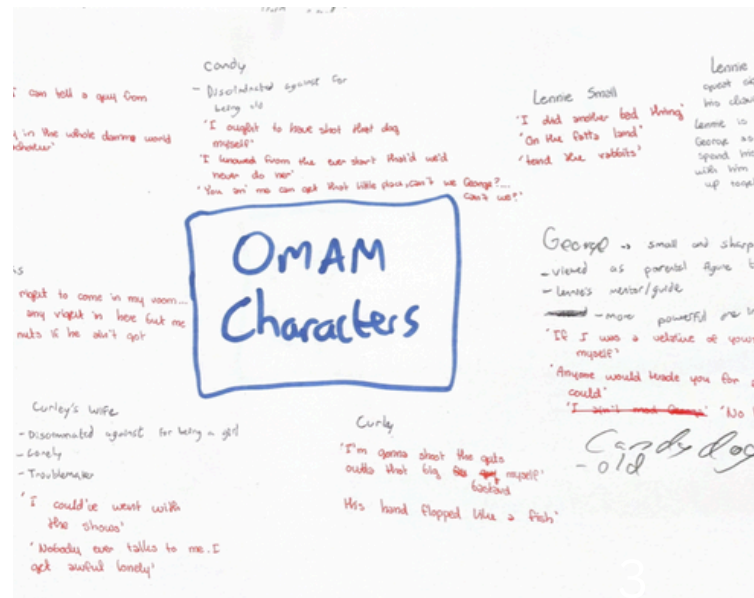
3rd Year and 6th Year State examinations

Best wishes to our 3rd Year and 6th Year students who will be sitting their examinations over the next few weeks. The students and teachers have been working extremely hard over the last few months to ensure that the students achieve their potential in the upcoming exams.

The students deserve to do well as their commitment, desire to succeed and drive have helped to put the students in a good position before the exams start. Both Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate exams start on Wednesday 3rd of June.

3rd Year English Revision

Some of the 3rd Year English classes had the chance to revise over their studied texts for the exams over the last couple of weeks. One activity that the students found really useful was a carousel activity where the students had to identify key moments, characteristics and themes of the texts that they had studied. They had to write down key quotations and explanation of ideas to see how much they could remember and then they would move on to another text. The most interesting thing about this activity was that the students not only understand their own viewpoints of the texts but also the viewpoints of the other students in the class. At the end of the session they were able to take pictures of each text which should help them in their future revision.



1st and 5th Year Inhouse exams

The 1st Years and 5th Year students sat their end of year exams in exam centres towards the end of May. It was a worthwhile experience for both sets of students as the 5th Years were able to sit in an exam centre and practice in preparation for their Leaving Certificate next year.



This was also the first experience for the 1st Years to complete a test in standard exam conditions. This was an important step for the students as it will help them to understand the pressures of state exams without the added pressures of it actually being a state exam.

3rd Year Music

One of the 3rd Year Music classes were practicing their collaboration skills coupled with their creativity and showcasing their music knowledge and skills over the last few weeks. For this activity, the students had to choose an event that they would hypothetically perform at. They were then tasked with writing a song and developing the chords of that song to ensure that it would be suitable for the event that they were taking part in. It was the perfect activity to showcase the students learning this year but it also offered an opportunity to allow the students to develop their creative side and have fun while doing so.



LCA Spanish Oral Examination

On Monday, 11th of May, our Leaving Certificate Applied students reached a major milestone as they sat their official Spanish oral examinations.

As expected, there were plenty of butterflies and nervous energy in the corridors beforehand. However, once the students stepped into the examination room, their hard work and preparation truly paid off. The examiner created a welcoming atmosphere, allowing our students to settle their nerves and confidently showcase their language skills.

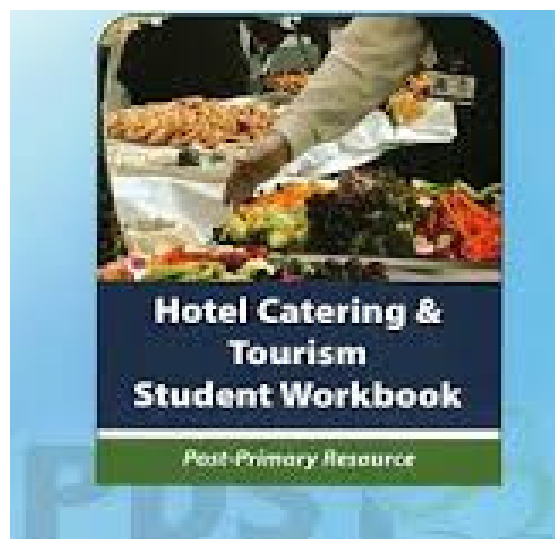
We are incredibly proud to report that everyone felt comfortable responding to the examiner's questions. In fact, they all walked out of the exam room with big smiles, feeling very pleased and satisfied with their performance.

A huge congratulations to all our LCA students for their dedication and positive attitude. You faced the challenge with maturity and did yourselves—and the school—incredibly proud. Keep up the fantastic work as we approach the final stretch of the year!



LCA Key Events

Well done, also, to all LCA students who completed the interviews in Graphics and Construction, an Hotel, Catering and Tourism practical, Active Leisure practical and a Spanish Oral exam. Well done to those who received their credit statements for Sessions 1 and 3 and for all their hard work throughout the year. We look forward to even more students achieving full credits in LCA in 2026/2027 with full attendance and participation in all key assignments.



Leaving Certificate Graduation Events



Congratulations

Congratulations to our 6th years who finished up their school journey with a wonderful week of events and memories culminating with their graduation in Barberstown house on Monday 25th May. The students were treated to many different activities with the highlights being activities such as “Anything but a bag” and the student staff rounders at the end of the day on Thursday 21st May. For the “Anything but a bag” activity, it was amazing to see the variety of objects the students brought in with some students opting for a wheel barrow or a car seat and even going to the extreme of bringing in an airfryer and a fridge. The staff versus student rounders experience is an activity that comes around every year and the students love to have a chance to try and beat the teachers but, as seems to be a growing trend, the teachers came out victorious this year. As a school, we wish our 6th Years all the best in their upcoming exams and we hope they achieve everything that they wish in life as they truly are a wonderful bunch of young people.

Graduation Night

On Monday 25th May, we said goodbye to our current cohort of 6th Year students at a graduation ceremony in Barberstown House. It was a magnificent night where the parents, family and teachers of the 6th Year students had an opportunity to celebrate the success of this wonderful group of individuals and the students themselves had an opportunity to say goodbye to their school days in a formal setting. A huge thank you to the staff and students who worked hard to make this event a success and to the music department who helped to make the event memorable with a fantastic musical performance throughout.





A special thank you must go to the 6th Year Ceann Bliana, Damian who was instrumental at creating the perfect send off for this year group. Damian has worked tirelessly all year to help promote the successes of the group.

Finally, a huge thank you must go to Barberstown House for helping to create the perfect environment to celebrate these wonderful young people.



6th Year - Last day

For their last day, the 6th years were treated to a leaving breakfast in the halla with bacon and sausages and rolls the order of the day. The students got to spend some time together to chat about days gone by while enjoying the breakfast. After their breakfast the students received their awards for the current year with the highlight awards being the student of the year Caomhnoir awards. It was also a day where the students got to say goodbye to both their peers and their teachers. The teachers had an opportunity to come down to the halla at different points during the day to reminisce about the students time at Celbridge Community School. It was also an opportunity for the teachers to hand out awards to students in their Caomhnoir groups or their classes. At the end of the morning the group were able to take some group photographs as a memento of their time in school at Celbridge Community school. A time that will live long in their memories.

6th Year- Last Day photos



Transition Year Adventures

Transition
Year

TY Dail visit

TY students travelled to the Dail on 21st May. A big thank you to Joe Neville TD, who kindly organised and invited our students. The group got a tour of the building, saw the Dail in session and watched a debate, were able to look around the Seanad chamber as well as seeing the Fine Gael parliamentary room, where Joe answered student questions. A great day out for the TY students!



Fantastic Achievement

Addison Carey continued her success with an incredible achievement on the global stage! Regeneron ISEF which is the largest pre-college STEM fair in the world as it brings together over 1,700 of the brightest young minds from over 60 countries (less than 1% of all STEM competitors worldwide). Addison was delighted to have placed 4th in the Software Design Category (out of 60 projects!) She received the Mawhiba Foundation Special Award for Giftedness and Creativity, which includes a scholarship. Addison said that it was “A truly unforgettable experience representing Ireland alongside amazing peers.”





Duchas

Wrapping up a wonderful year of our new TY module, DUCHAS. We finished it off with a beautiful walk to the Acres project in Celbridge. The perfect way to reflect on everything the module stands for: community, connection and the beauty of Ireland's nature. Well done to the Transition Year class who really got stuck in all year with such great enthusiasm!



Pointí Gradam



Friday 29th May was not only the final day of the year for staff and students; it was also the awards day for our 1st to 5th Year students. It has been a really positive year for students at Celbridge community school and we were delighted to award them for their efforts throughout the last term. The awards ranged from student of the year to rang of the year with awards also for curricular and sporting achievements. We wish all of our students a wonderful summer holidays and hope they come back ready to be successful again next year.

Transition Year Awards



3rd Year Awards



2nd Year Awards



1st Year Awards

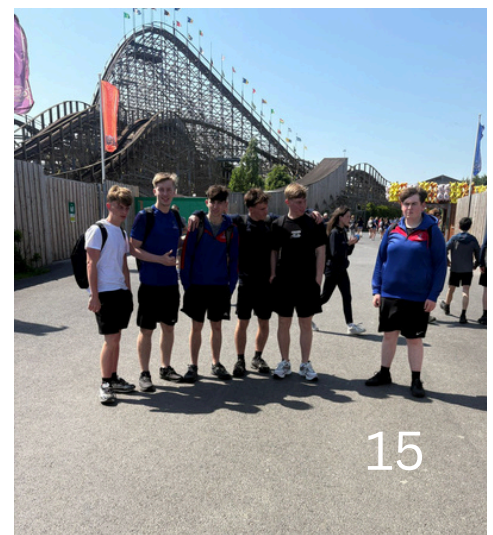


Trips Day



May 27th - Trip to Emerald Park

First Years, Second Years and Fifth Years all went on their end of year trip to Emerald Park towards the end of the last week in school. It was the perfect reward for students who had spent the year studying and improving their learning and this trip was more significant as it gave the three year groups a breather after their busy exam sessions the previous week. This was one of the biggest trips that we have organised this year so a huge thanks must go to the Ceann Bliana and Caomhnoiri of all three year groups for making it such a successful trip. The students had a terrific time on the different park rides and the day was truly made with the weather excelling meaning that the students could concentrate on enjoying the positivity of the day.



Sports Day 2026



May 28th: Sports Day in Celbridge Community School

Thanks to our amazing PE teachers, a wonderful day of events was lined up for our students to enjoy on sports day. It was a day that all students could enjoy as there were activities for the students who love all things athletic but there were also activities for the students who have a more creative mindset. The day was set up like Ireland's fittest family with Caomhnoir groups choosing the activities that best suited the students on their teams. Athletics was a key activity with sports such as the high jump and the shot putt as starting point and the more traditional sack race to finish off that section. Students could then partake in some teaceam sports with a mixture of soccer, dodgeball, basketball and tag rugby. To add to this there were a number of indoor activities and workshops for the students to enjoy and finally there was inflatable madness with the football darts and the jousting being the two activities that the students and teachers seem to enjoy the most. The day finished with an impromptu teacher versus students tug of war and even though the teachers had won the rounders against the 6th years, the tug of war was beyond them and the students left school ecstatic with the joy of beating the teachers - something that the teachers will try to rectify next year.





Nurturing a community of learners to thrive in
an innovative and inclusive environment that
celebrates achievement

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