



St David's College Newsletter Spring 2026

This term has been full of achievements, creativity, and unforgettable experiences! From our 2025 Junior Cycle students receiving their JCPA certificates, to life changing moments on the Kenyan Immersion Programme, and celebrations from Seachtain na Gaeilge to Literacy Week—there's plenty to be proud of. Including notable victories and sporting highlights, it's been a term to remember. We hope you enjoy reading about all the highlights and successes from across the school this term!

Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement Certificates 2025

Congratulations to our 2025 Junior Cycle students who were presented with their JCPA certificates. The JCPA highlights each student's progress over the three years of Junior Cycle, recognising their exam results, classroom-based assessments, and their participation in a broad range of learning and wellbeing activities.



Kenyan Immersion Programme

A group of students and teachers from St. David's travelled to Kenya in February as part of the school's Kenyan Immersion Programme. The trip provided a unique opportunity to experience a different culture, way of life, and education system firsthand.

During their time in Kenya, the group visited local schools, worked alongside students and teachers, and took part in a variety of community activities. They also explored the local area, gaining insight into Kenyan traditions, daily life, and the challenges faced by communities.

The trip was a memorable and enriching experience for everyone involved.

To capture the experience from a student perspective, two students share their reflections on the trip on the following page.



Reflections on the Kenyan Immersion Programme

We set off from Ireland on February 10th, full of excitement for what would become a truly unforgettable experience. As a group, we travelled together and had the incredible opportunity to go on a safari, where we saw amazing wildlife up close and experienced something completely different from everyday life at home. One of the best parts of the trip was sharing belly laughs with the kids, creating memories that will stay with us all for a long time. Working in the school was a real privilege, as it gave us the chance to see the real backgrounds of many of the children, and the bond that grew between us lads and the kids was truly heartwarming. Spending time helping in the classrooms is something I will always remember. From start to finish, it truly felt like the trip of a lifetime, and everyone had a great time. I'm so grateful that I got to be part of it, and it's something I'll always look back on with a smile. The whole experience made me realise how easy it is to take things for granted back home, and it gave me a new appreciation for everything we have here. We would also like to say a big thank you to the brothers who kindly welcomed us and allowed us to stay in their compound for the duration of our journey—their generosity meant so much to us all.

Aaron Dunne

My trip to Kenya was amazing, and it was eye-opening. The experiences I gained during my visit will shape my outlook on life forever. Being embraced into a world full of new cultures, food, and traditions really showed me how different my life is compared to the locals. The school we visited, students and teachers, welcomed us with open arms and big smiles. Not one person didn't look thankful for being in school and getting an education. I mostly interacted with the students, and they all had stories to share about their lives in Kenya and at school. Since the students were all in clean, formal uniforms, you couldn't tell what their situation was at home. Visiting their homes made me realise how different their circumstances were from my own. My problems felt small in comparison to the challenges they face. There were also happy parts of the trip, like the safari we went on, where I got to see animals up close like never before. I got to feed giraffes by hand; they are much bigger in reality than most would think. Overall, my experience in Kenya will stay with me forever, and I'm so grateful to have this one in a lifetime experience. I would definitely encourage anyone thinking about this trip to sign up for it next time. **Dachi Kasradze**



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2026

Seachtain na Gaeilge took place in March. It was celebrated with a variety of fun activities across the school.

Each morning, students took part in the “Cé Mise?” challenge over the intercom, with correct answers entered into a daily prize draw. Tutor classes enjoyed a daily Irish Wordle and Seanfhocal an Lae, encouraging students to use cúpla focal in a fun way.

The Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine initiative saw students nominated for making an effort to speak Irish, while Lá Glas raised funds for the Edmund Rice Summer Camps.

The Comórtas Ealaíne showcased creative posters from 1st–4th years, and 1st and 2nd years took part in Tráth na gCeist quizzes, supported by TY students. The week ended with a lively Céilí for first years, led by TY students teaching traditional dances.

It was a fantastic week celebrating Irish language and culture throughout the school.



Literacy Week

St. David's marked Literacy Week with a variety of fun activities. Students enjoyed daily Wordles and the “Who Am I?” quiz, challenging them with literary and cultural clues. First Years visited the Book Fair, while students from all year groups took part in the lunchtime ‘Story Slam’ competition. On World Book Day, the whole school participated in “Drop Everything And Read,” and the week ended with another “Who Am I?” quiz and a Spelling Bee. Literacy Week gave students an engaging way to celebrate reading, writing, and stories. Well done to all the winners of the activities over the week.



Catholic Schools Week 2026

St. David's celebrated Catholic Schools Week from 18–24 January 2026, with the theme “Catholic Schools – Normal Lives, Called to Holiness.” The week celebrated how students, staff, and families can express their faith through everyday acts of kindness, prayer, and service, embodying the values of Catholic education. As part of the celebrations, 2nd year students attended Mass at Artane Oratory, celebrated by Fr Bryan Shortall.



German and French Department

On 25th March, we welcomed a group of students from the Peter-Paul-Cahensly School in Limburg, Germany. During their visit, students from both schools delivered short presentations, offering insights into daily school life in Germany and Ireland. Our visitors also enjoyed a guided tour of the school. The exchange provided a valuable cultural experience and a great opportunity for our students to practise their German in a real-life setting. Sincere thanks to our 2nd and 3rd year students who helped lead the tour and made our guests feel so welcome.



JCSP Chess Open 2026

The 2026 JCSP Chess Open was held in February, bringing together students eager to test their strategic skills. Congratulations to this year's winners, and well done to all participants for their impressive performances.



Road Safety Shuttle

The RSA Shuttle Bus visited the school in February, giving our TY and 5th Year students where students engaged in a range of interactive activities, including VR simulations on distracted and drink driving, driving simulators to test hazard perception, and a brake reaction timer to demonstrate how speed and attention affect stopping distances. Throughout the week, our junior students also took part in road safety quizzes, with the chance to win prizes.



Sports

Since January, sport has remained a key part of life at St David's College, with students proudly representing the school across a wide range of activities and competitions. Whether winning as a team or giving their all in difficult conditions, our students have shown great determination. Some of the highlights are below. For more updates on all sporting activities, please follow our social media pages.



The U15 football team kicked off the new year with the first local derby against St David's in early January. St David's came out strong, but our team's excellent effort couldn't stop them from winning 3-1, allowing them to advance to the next round of the cup. A week later, our U15s bounced back in a league match against St Finian's, producing a dominant performance to claim a 5-0 victory.



Our first year athletic girls' team took part in the DCC Indoor Track Relay event in March and also had the exciting opportunity to meet Olympian Kellie Harrington.



The first volleyball team faced St Benildus College in early February. After a tight opening set, which they narrowly lost 28-26, the team responded brilliantly—winning the next two sets to secure victory in a three-set match.

Our U14 hurling team has made a fantastic start to the year, securing wins over Coláiste Choilm (3-8 to 3-4) and Skerries Community College. A special well done to the 1st Year students on their strong debuts, and to the team for showing great determination in challenging conditions.



In February, our U15 girls' soccer team delivered an excellent display to secure victory over Belmayne Educate Together. It was a great team effort, with a number of players contributing to the scoring throughout the game.



Our 1st Year GAA team reached the Shield Final after a strong campaign. Although they were defeated, their effort and achievement in getting to the final is something to be proud of.

Junior News

Third Year Music Trip

Our 3rd Year Music class visited Windmill Lane Studios in Dublin, where they explored recording equipment and learned how some of Ireland's most famous music is created. A fun and inspiring day for all!

2nd Year Attendance Competition

Congratulations to 2 Ash on winning the 2nd Year Attendance Competition! Their excellent attendance and team spirit secured them first place in a very close contest. As a reward, they enjoyed a class trip to the cinema. Well done to all 2nd Year classes for their improved attendance—keep it up!

World of Work Programme 2026

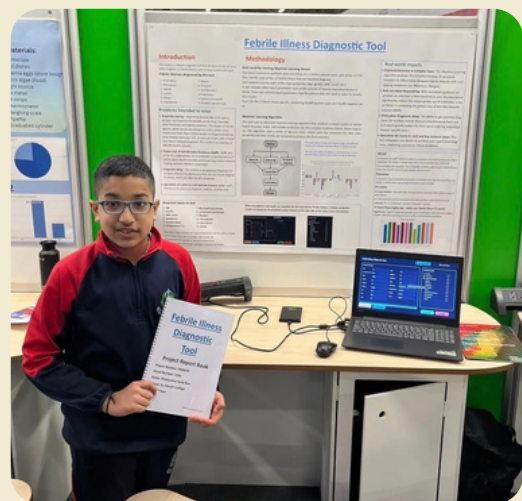
In February, our 2nd year Business Studies students took part in a visit to Cornmarket as part of their World of Work Programme, organised by Business in the Community. During the trip, students were given a tour of the offices and had the opportunity to learn about a range of departments, including IT, Sales, Finance, Marketing and Human Resources. The programme will conclude with a follow-up session in school this April, along with the presentation of certificates.

St Brigid's Day

1st Year Art students made St. Brigid's crosses with help from Mr. McCloskey. It was a fun way to celebrate Irish tradition.

Museum of Archaeology

1st year classes enjoyed an exciting trip to the Museum of Archaeology. Students explored Ireland's rich history, seeing fascinating exhibits such as ancient gold jewellery, Viking artifacts, and the famous bog bodies. It was a memorable day full of learning and discovery for everyone.



Celebrating Young Scientific Talent

Congratulations to Pradyumna Suraj who won the Junior Biological and Ecological Sciences category at this year's Stripe Young Scientist event held at the RDS. This outstanding achievement showcases his dedication, curiosity, and scientific skill—well done!

Transition Year



Guilty or not ?



January

- Some TY students visited DCU for a multimedia workshop, creating their own short films.
- Dublin Samaritans delivered a talk to TY students.
- TYs began delivering Digital Literacy classes to their 1st Year buddies over five weeks.
- Driving lessons commenced every Friday.
- Some TY students attended a Language Workshop at TU Dublin.
- Student Enterprise Awards talk held for interested students.
- Community Care activities continued every Wednesday.

February

- RSA Shuttle Bus visited for the Road Safety module.
- TY students continued Community Care, visiting St. David's BNS, Nazareth House, and Jack and Jill charity shop.
- Students participated in a Forensics Workshop with 'Forensic Fun,' studying the JFK assassination.

March

- Students attended online lectures with Royal College of Surgeons, on MiniMed, MiniPharm/Science, and MiniPhysio programmes.
- Barry Heneghan TD visited for a talk on mental health.
- TY classes received an informative visit from MABS as part of Global Money Week 2026.
- Two Mini Company groups attended the Student Enterprise Awards – well done to all involved.
- All TY classes travelled to Carrickmines to take part in Go Quest.
- TY students participated in an Accenture AI workshop delivered by Junior Achievement Ireland.
- TY classes enjoyed a barbering workshop with barber Lizzie McGhee.

Senior News



- 6th Year visited Butler's Chocolate Factory as part of their LCVP class.
- All 6th years had a very informative TU Dublin talk.
- All 5th Years had an opportunity to try out the range of interactive activities on the RSA Shuttle Bus.
- Well done to LCA2 on completing their Graphics and Construction projects, as well as successfully taking part in their project interviews.
- LCA2 students began their driving lessons.
- LCA1 organised a quiz for the 2nd years as part of one of their tasks—well done to them for their hard work.
- LCA1 visited Butlers Chocolate Factory as part of their Food Science module, exploring the chocolate-making process.



Career Guidance

Our annual Careers Fair took place in March. Students had the opportunity to explore a wide range of career and further education options, with representatives from various industries and third-level institutions in attendance. The event provided valuable insights into different career paths and the skills required, helping to guide students as they consider their future choices.



Attendance Awards

Well done to the students who received Attendance Awards this term. These awards highlight the importance of consistent school attendance and recognise the dedication shown by students who make the effort to be present each day. Being in school regularly plays a vital role in supporting learning and staying connected to school life.



Academic Achievement Awards

A special mention to the students who were recognised for their excellent results in the Christmas examinations. These certificates acknowledge the hard work, focus, and commitment they have shown across their subjects. Their achievements are a credit to them, and they serve as an inspiration to their peers. Photos of students receiving their awards are available on our school's social media platforms.



Congratulations to last year's top performing students, who were awarded a €500 bursary by our Chairman, Mr. James O'Connell, in recognition of their outstanding results in their summer exams. This award celebrates their hard work, dedication, and academic excellence.

Wishing all our students, staff and families a very happy and relaxing Easter break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the final term. Happy Easter!

