



Student Newsletter



Week 1 Advent Reflection



Advent is a time of waiting and preparation, and the first week invites us to focus on **HOPE**.

In the midst of busy school days and the excitement of Christmas approaching, it's easy to forget what we're truly waiting for: the coming of Jesus, the light of the world.

Hope doesn't mean ignoring challenges—it means trusting that God is with us, even when life feels uncertain. This week, think about where you need hope in your life. Maybe it's in your studies, friendships, or family.

Advent reminds us that God's promises are real and that His love never fails.

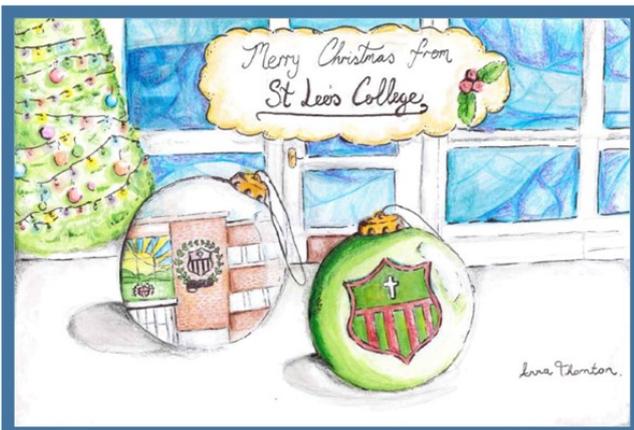


Christmas Card Competition Winners

First Prize: Vanshika Thakur (3C)

Joint Second Prize: Anna Thornton (5C)

Callie Kavanagh (2A)





CEIST
Catholic Education
An Irish Schools Trust

2026 St. Leo's College Calendar

Please
Support

for Sale €10

On Sale!

We are delighted to launch the new St. Leo's College Calendar 2026.

Calendars are available to purchase from the school office or on VSware for €10.

We encourage all families to buy one. This is a wonderful Christmas gift for family and friends.

Sincere thanks to Elaine Curtis, member of our Board of Management, for her trojan work in designing this very impressive publication.

**Every student featured with
their Class and Year Group.**



Save these dates:

- 10th December – Sixth Year Time to Talk Evening
- 11th December – Third Year Time to Talk Evening
- 12th December – SVdP Christmas Jumper Day
- 16th December – Carols by Candlelight
- 17th December – Christmas Market
- 18th December – Christmas Carol Service



Carols by Candlelight

ST MARY'S CHURCH

TUE 16th DECEMBER 7PM ENTRY: €5.00

PERFORMANCES BY ST. LEO'S STUDENTS

TIME TO TALK

"Facilitating Reflection and Encouraging Collaborative Dialogue between Parents & 6th Year Students in preparation for Mock & State Examinations"



December 10th 2025
Assembly Hall
7pm

Register Attendance via link on 6th Year TEAM

AIM

1. Empower reflection
2. Encourage dialogue
3. Catalyse goal setting (academic and personal)



WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Parents/Guardians and Students are invited to attend together.
 Students are welcome to come on their own.

ACTIVITY FOCUSED

Engage in 5 carefully curated activities to help focus academic goals in preparation for mock examinations



Annual Public Speaking Competition

The school held our annual Public Speaking Competition on Thursday 27th November, and once again it proved to be a highlight of the academic calendar. More than forty junior and senior students took to the stage, each delivering confident and engaging speeches on a wide range of topics. Their creativity, poise and command of language made for an inspiring afternoon that truly showcased the strength of our students' oracy skills.

In the senior category, first place was awarded to **Onyi Iroh 5D**, whose polished delivery and compelling content captivated the audience. **Phoebe Brennan 4C** secured second place with an equally impressive performance. **Emily S. Wall, Giovanna Vieira, Divine Ndlovu and Sophie Halpin** were all highly commended for their exceptional presentation skills, which set a remarkably high standard.

The junior competitors were no less impressive. **Sadhbh Brennan 1D** was named the overall winner, demonstrating confidence and clarity beyond her years. **Hanora O'Driscoll 3B** earned second place with a strong and engaging speech. Highly commended in the junior category were **Amelia Heslin 2F, Ayesha Bacha 3C, and Clíodhna Coffey 1C**, each delivering presentations of outstanding quality.

Congratulations to all participants for their hard work, enthusiasm, and courage. The event was a wonderful celebration of student voice, and we look forward to seeing these talented speakers continue to develop their skills in the years ahead.

The winners received a commemorative trophy and a €50 gift voucher, with commemorative medals for second placed entrants.

Special thanks to our teacher adjudicators Ms. Alison Doyle and Ms. Giollaíosa Ní Mhaonaigh, and our TY student adjudicators Sinead Tomaszewska and Maia Fitzgerald, as well as our timekeeper and host, Faye Brennan 4C.



Congratulations!



2A Cairdeas Activity!

Spot the Snowman



2nd year pizza

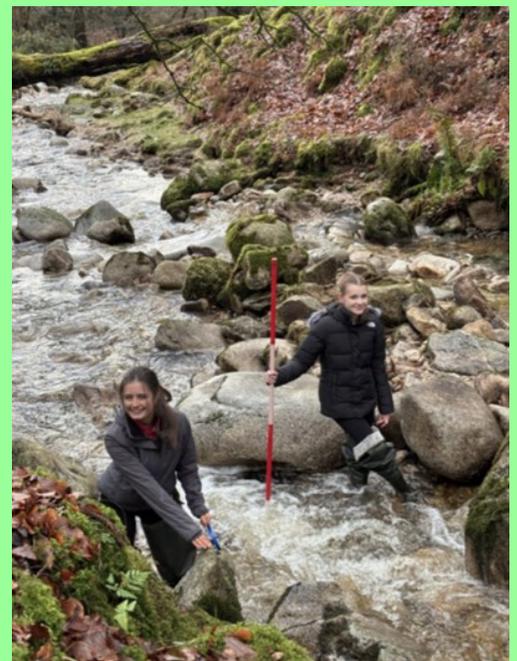


Sixth Year Geography Fieldwork in Wicklow

Our Sixth Year Geography students headed to Wicklow on fieldwork to investigate how erosion processes formed a V-shaped valley.

Wearing waders, they stepped into the river to carry out measurements and collected data for their project.

Sincere thanks to teachers Ms.Davies and Ms.English who accompanied the girls.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LCA STUDENT

@ ST. LEO'S COLLEGE



WE HAVE HAD A VERY EXCITING PAST TWO WEEKS. WE TRAVELLED UP TO THE NATIONAL SPORTS CAMPUS IN ABBOTSTOWN, DUBLIN FOR OUR GENERAL EDUCATION TASK. WHILE WE WERE THERE, WE GOT TO TRY OUT ATHLETICS, GYMNASTICS, BADMINTON AND INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL.

IN HOTEL AND CATERING WE LEARNED HOW TO MAKE SWISS ROLLS FROM SCRATCH WITH THE CHOICE OF USING FRESH JAM OR NUTELLA. AND WE LEARNED HOW TO SERVE SWISS ROLLS FORMALLY.

IN HAIR AND BEAUTY, WE STARTED OUR HAIR CARE SKILLS, WE WENT DOWN TO THE SALON AND LEARNED HOW TO WASH, SECTION, AND BLOW DRY HAIR USING MODEL HEADS.

IN SCIENCE, WE WERE LEARNING ABOUT OUR GENETIC MAKEUP, AND WE ALSO GOT TO LOOK AT SHEEP ORGANS.

DURING SOCIAL EDUCATION WE STARTED OUR KEY ASSIGNMENTS BASED ON ADDICTION. ALL OUR CLASS WERE TOLD TO CHOOSE AN ADDICTION OF OUR CHOICE TO MAKE A POWERPOINT ON TO PRESENT TO THE CLASS TO SPREAD AWARENESS.

ON FRIDAY THE 28TH OF NOVEMBER OUR WHOLE YEAR GROUP GOT TO WATCH THE RECORDING OF OUR TY MUSICAL - MATILDA AND THE REVOLTING CHILDREN.

Written by Kym Walker and Orrianna Mullins LCA



International Students @ St. Leo's

Meet Liv Silja Hohlfeld 5A
from
North Rhine-Westphalia
In Germany

My name is Silja and I am from North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany. More precisely from my hometown Essen which is near to Cologne where my older sister lives. I often visit her there and we do some activities. Furthermore, I do horse riding and I sing in a choir with my friends. Therefore, I am in the school choir as well.

I also love to read and to bake. (Always bake for my host family as well). Here in Ireland I do Volleyball and Netball which is both so incredibly much fun. I am planning to join a Volleyball club back home but unfortunately we don't have any Netball clubs. During my stay here in Ireland I hope not only to improve my English but to experience the culture and landscape of this country.



SPORT



U16s won against Mean Scoil Mhuire Longford.

The girls now advance on to the A All Ireland play-offs.

Well done.





HOMWORK JOURNAL

2026 - 2027

Design the Cover of the
2026-2027
Homework Journal

Theme: Dreams
'Life After Leo's'

Competition Requirements

Designs should be...

- A4 in Size
- Hand Drawn
- Colourful
- Reflect the theme

Deadline
January 9th
@
9:00am

Submit entries to box outside staffroom

ENTER TO WIN PRIZES



Congrats
WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU.




We are very proud of our former student Megan Berry who is the first Irish traveller to graduate from the UN Minority Fellowship Programme in Geneva. Well done Megan!

December Kindness 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1 Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others	2 Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are	3 Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment	4 Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about	5 Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	6 Leave a positive message for someone else to find	7 Give kind comments to as many people as possible today
8 Do something helpful for a friend or family member	9 Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead	10 Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them	11 Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank	12 Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today	13 See how many different people you can smile at today	14 Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one
15 Say hello to your neighbour and brighten up their day	16 Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to	17 Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you	18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving	19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated	20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need	21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you
22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed	23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness	24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh	25 Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!	26 Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature	27 Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat	28 Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy
29 Turn off digital devices and really listen to people	30 Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why	31 Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2026				

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS **Happier · Kinder · Together**





Irish Dancing



Congratulations to all of our students who participated in the Leinster Preliminary Championships recently.

Special congratulations to Third Year student Emily Quinn who achieved second place.

Well done everyone!



LIBRARY

I recently had the opportunity to read and review "War Games" by Alan Gratz for the library, and I jumped at the

chance! Historical fiction is, without a doubt, my favourite genre of novel, especially World War II books, like this one.

The story begins with a young American gymnast, Evelyn (Evie) Harris, competing at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, with a hunger for fame and fortune - she is determined to 'take home the gold'. Evie, like many other athletes, is, at first, blissfully unaware of the atrocities happening around the apparently spotless, utopian Germany she has the privilege to visit. Her tour guide, Heinz, is the model of Aryan perfection, as are all the other German athletes, every street corner is draped with crisp Swastikas, and the state-of-the-art Olimpiastadion is testimony to Germany's revival following the Great War. Yet, she can't help but feel something is off about the charismatic Nazi leader, Adolf Hitler...

Evie is devastated to be informed that she's been demoted to first reserve for the cliquey women's gymnastics team USA. Stuck on the sidelines, just as she thinks there is no way she'll get to take home the gold, a mysterious journalist, Solomon Monday, and German weightlifter, Karl, approach her with an ambitious scheme, and maybe, just maybe, Evie will take home the gold after all. Throughout the course of the book, Evie uncovers the dark secrets of 1930s Berlin - propaganda, persecution, and peril - meeting with influential characters such as Leni Riefenstahl, and narrowly escaping capture on multiple occasions.

I really enjoyed this book, because I'm easily enthralled by Germany's past. However, I don't feel that the tale's ending was wholly satisfactory or realistic, it was predictably niche (read the book, and you'll see what I mean), but overall a very rewarding read, and not as depressing as many WWII novels. This book is likely most suitable for readers aged 11-14, or any fellow history fans! I would recommend it as a perfect Christmas present for younger siblings, friends or relatives who are curious about the world around them. There is also a very helpful section at the end of the book that explains Nazi Germany and outlines what in the story is fact, and what is fiction.



Book Review from Annelise Coffey 3B



Gráinne O'Brien

Gráinne is a bookseller with Kenny's bookshop in Galway and Solo is her debut novel.

She will join us in St Leo's College for an afternoon which promises to be wonderful. Save the date!

MEET THE AUTHOR

For our fourth bookclub of the new academic year, we will discuss the novel in verse Solo with the author herself.

15th of December
in school!

