

ST CIARÁN'S
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



OMNES VIRTUTEM SEQUENTES

St. Ciarán's Community School
Kells Co. Meath
A82N677



St. Ciarán's Community School

December Newsletter 2025



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Words of Welcome



Welcome to the Christmas issue of the St. Ciarán's Community School newsletter. As the festive season draws near, a magical atmosphere fills the corridors of our school. This is always a very busy time for students and staff alike as Christmas exams take place for all students. However, as you can see from this edition of our newsletter, our students were also engaged in a fantastic array of extra-curricular activities.

The academic year at St. Ciarán's began with a full calendar of events, and I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the staff and students for their continued commitment and effort to our school. As we prepare for the Christmas break, let us remember that the most meaningful gifts are often those we cannot wrap—our time, love, and care for others. I encourage you all to embrace these moments with your families and friends, carrying forward a sense of community and generosity. Wishing you a joyful and peaceful holiday season! Warm regards and to wish staff, students, and Parents/Guardians a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year

Cara McLoughlin

Principal

Pat O'Sullivan

Deputy Principal

Important Dates

These are the important dates to mark in your diaries over the coming months. The information highlights school holidays and key days to remember which should assist you in planning ahead. Please note that while changes are unlikely, it is still a good idea to check regularly. For ongoing updates, daily activities, and additional announcements, parents can keep up to date using the school calendar on our website at www.stciaranscs.ie.

Date	Event
January 13 th	1 st Year Parent – Teacher Meeting
January 15 th	School Closure: JCT Cluster Day
January 19 th – 30 th	3 rd & 6 th Year Mock Examinations
January 29 th	2 nd Year Parent – Teacher Meeting
February 2 nd	St. Bridget's Day Bank Holiday
February 16 th – 20 th	Midterm Break

Date	Event
March 16 th	School Closure
March 17 th	St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday
March 30 th – April 10 th	Easter Break

Date	Event
April 15 th	School Closure: Staff Planning
May 4 th	Bank Holiday
May 25 th – 29 th	Summer Examinations
June 1 st	Bank Holiday
June 3 rd – 23 rd	State Examinations

Announcing Our School-Managed Laptop Device Programme



As Principal, I am delighted to share an important and exciting development for our school community: from the academic year 2026, we will be introducing a school-managed laptop device programme for all students entering 1st and 5th year. This initiative represents a significant step towards ensuring every student is equipped for success in an increasingly digital educational landscape.

Why Are We Introducing This Programme?

The landscape of teaching and learning is changing rapidly, with digital skills now a core part of the curriculum at both Junior and Senior Cycle. Recent curriculum reforms mean that project-based learning and digital assessment are no longer optional extras; they are central to how our students learn, demonstrate understanding, and achieve. Our mission has always been to provide an education that empowers every child to reach their potential. This programme is a direct response to that commitment.

In addition to addressing curriculum requirements, the school-managed laptop programme brings significant educational benefits for our students. Personalised learning becomes a reality, as students can learn at their own pace, access resources anytime, and engage with interactive content tailored to their needs. Digital tools also enhance collaboration and creativity, making it easier for students to work together on projects, share ideas, and develop innovative solutions. With access to a wide range of digital resources—from e-books to educational apps—students have a wealth of information and learning opportunities at their fingertips. Crucially, this initiative prepares students for the future, equipping them with digital literacy skills essential for college, careers, and life in an increasingly technology-driven world.

A 1:1 device programme affords each student the opportunity to engage in their education in a monitored, structured, and supportive digital environment. This approach ensures that technology is used responsibly and effectively, with safeguards in place to promote positive and productive learning habits, supporting our commitment to student wellbeing and success.



Educational Rationale and Curriculum Requirements

A key driver for this initiative is the growing importance of digital competency and project work in national assessments. For Senior Cycle students, project work now accounts for 40% of final marks. At Junior Cycle, Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) require students to research, collaborate, and present their work in digital formats. The use of technology is not just encouraged; it is required for students to fully participate and excel.

Providing all 1st and 5th year students with a school-managed device ensures every student can access the tools and platforms necessary for these curriculum requirements. It levels the playing field and supports our vision for inclusive, high-quality education.

Programme Details: Launch, Platform, and Support

The programme will launch in September 2026, beginning with incoming 1st and 5th year groups. Each student will receive a school-managed laptop, configured for educational use and preloaded with the Olive for Education platform. Olive for Education is a secure, student-friendly environment designed to support classroom learning, homework, project work, and communication between students and teachers.

Aligning with Senior Cycle Projects and Junior Cycle CBAs

With new Senior Cycle project work now comprising 40% of overall marks in several Leaving Certificate subjects, access to reliable digital devices is essential. Similarly, Junior Cycle CBAs require students to conduct research, compile digital portfolios, and present findings using technology. Our current ICT provision—shared computer labs and occasional device trolleys—simply cannot meet these increased demands. The new programme directly addresses this gap, giving all students the resources they need to succeed.



A Collaborative and Evidence-Based Decision

This decision was not made lightly. Over the past year, we have consulted widely with students, staff, and parents. Through surveys, focus groups, and meetings, we gathered valuable feedback about our current ICT provision, the challenges faced, and hopes for the future. The message was clear: while our community values traditional teaching, there is strong support for greater access to digital tools, especially as curriculum requirements evolve. Your input has shaped every aspect of this initiative, and I want to thank everyone who contributed their views.

Addressing Current ICT Gaps

We recognise, with complete honesty, that our current ICT resources are no longer sufficient to meet the demands of modern teaching and learning. Relying on shared devices creates inequality and limits opportunities for students to engage fully in digital coursework. The introduction of a school-managed laptop for every student in 1st and 5th year is an investment in our students' future, ensuring they have what they need to learn, create, and achieve—both in school and at home.

Commitment to Equity of Access and Student Success

At the heart of this programme is our commitment to equity. Every student, regardless of background, will have access to the same high-quality device and learning platform. This removes barriers, supports differentiated learning, and ensures that success depends on effort and talent—not on whether a student has access to technology at home.

What Happens Next?

In the coming months, we will communicate further details about device roll-out. Our goal is to make this transition as smooth and positive as possible for everyone.

I am confident that, together, we are making an evidence-based, collaborative investment in our children's education and future. We will be holding an information evening at 7pm on the 13th of January for the parents of incoming 1st and 5th year students.

With sincere thanks for your continued partnership, I wish you and your family a joyful and peaceful Christmas, and a happy New Year.

Warm Regards

Cara McLoughlin

Principal

What happened this term?



LC Geography Fieldstudy

Sixth Year Geography students travelled to Tanagh this term to carry out a river investigation, analysing a rivers ability to erode, transport and deposit its load. This investigation accounts for 20% of their overall Leaving Certificate Geography grade and is a great way to put theory into action.



Ciaran Beard - Wild Postcard Winner

Congratulations to 3rd-year student Ciaran Beard who was announced as a winner in the Wild Postcard competition in September! Ciaran's winning artwork was transformed into a postcard and printed alongside the other winners.



Marc's archaeological Dig

Marc Devereux used his skills of precision in conducting a mock archeological dig and discovered lots of hidden 'treasure'. Marc later prepared and presenting his findings. A great achievement for Marc and some interesting facts uncovered.



SNA Appreciation Day

In September we celebrated our SNA team. To Marie McNamee, Alison Bashford, Geraldine Fitzsimons, Theresa Carolan, Pauline Rooney, Sharon Bolger, and Barry Monaghan — a MASSIVE THANK YOU from everyone at St Ciaran's.



National Suicide Prevention Day

Our school joined the global conversation about suicide, a serious public health issue that claims over 700,000 lives each year. Its impact touches families, communities, and societies in profound ways. This year's theme invited everyone to foster open, honest conversations about suicide. By starting these vital discussions, we can break down barriers, raise awareness, and build cultures of understanding and support.

First Term Highlights



First Year TY Coffee Morning

It can sometimes be hard to be the youngest year group, but we've got a good structure to help our students find their feet and plenty of people there to support them whenever they need it. That's why we paired our amazing first years with our fantastic Transition Year Mentors who enjoyed a coffee and a chat in the canteen early in the term.



Schultüten

Our TY students had a fantastic time in German class making 'Schultüten' (school cones). These decorated cones, filled with surprises, are a traditional gift for German kids on their first day of school. The TY students proudly presented their lovingly crafted cones to our first-year German students.



Pilates with Michaela

Our St Ciaran's girls began their season's preparations with a fantastic pilates class. A great way to improve core strength, flexibility, posture, balance, and body awareness, while also reducing stress and the risk of injury. A very relaxing and enjoyable morning for all. Thanks so much to Michaela.



Sportsperson of the Month

Congratulations to Cillian Dixon Ray and Shannon Reilly who were awarded Sportsperson of the Month for September and October.

Cillian was named for his outstanding effort, teamwork and honesty both in training and in particular with the win against Rathangan in the 2nd Year Gaelic Football.

Shannon's award was given as she produced an outstanding performance for the school soccer team in the Leinster Minor Cup. A player with a bright future ahead.

Student Life Updates



Macbeth Performance

Our 6th years had a fantastic day at the Dean Crow Theatre in Athlone, where they enjoyed an excellent performance of Macbeth.

This amazing show was by the Gaiety School of Acting, who also provided a fantastic Q&A workshop after the show.



Flame Tests

TY student Daniel Mooney carrying out a flame test in Science earlier in the term. Well done Daniel.



5LCA Library Visit

Our 5 LCA class had a great morning at the library as part of their Social Education module

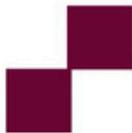
- Students signed up as library members, a key part of their community module. They explored local history resources that will fuel their research project on Kells in the past.



TY Tourism Module

Ms. Smiths TY Tourism class took on a whole new role this term. Having participated in a number of walking tours of Kells and carrying out weeks of research on their local area, our amazing TY students chose to share their extensive knowledge and teach our fantastic 1st year students about Tourism in Kells.

Around Our School



Leah Caffrey - Lidl Serious Support

All-Ireland winner and All-Star Leah Caffrey paid a special visit to our school this term as part of **#LidlSeriousSupport** campaign. Our students had the incredible opportunity to learn from the best as she delivered an inspiring workshop filled with leadership, skill, and motivation. We can't wait to have her back in the new year! Huge congratulations to Leah also on receiving her 5th All-Star — a fantastic achievement and a true inspiration to all.



Science Week

Congratulations to our wonderful Science Week winners from First Year - Ryan Lynch, Kabir Ali Naqvi, Adam Sheridan, Maks Giemza, and Sean Connell for their incredibly creative work designing and building a model of a cell. Well done to all the students, and to James Smith, another winner who is absent from the photo.



Niamh Cole Visit - Wellbeing

We were delighted to welcome Niamh Cole, a local beauty and nail technician, to speak with our students. Students also enjoyed a live demo and her visit was part of our school's wellbeing focus in the lead-up to exams — offering students a chance to take a breather, explore new interests, and build confidence.

Transition Year



Tanagh Adventure Centre

Our TYs started the year with a bang at Tanagh Adventure Centre where they had lots of laughs, made new friendships, and great memories.

From rafting, to rock climbing, mud sliding, to archery – they tried it all in one unforgettable day!

Our crew arrived home tired but happy. And with solid friendships made, they are looking forward to more adventures this year!



CPR and First Aid Training

TY students completed their CPR and first aid training this term.

This life-saving training is absolutely crucial and could make all the difference in an emergency. The students showed absolute focus and dedication throughout the session.

Transition Year



TY Ploughing

Our TYs had an amazing day at the National Ploughing Championship in Tullamore, Co. Offaly this term!

It was the perfect chance for our students to explore all the stalls, from farming gear to home baking to crafting. Thankfully the rain held off and, despite some muddy patches, everyone had a fantastic day.



TY Tourism Martry Mill

James Tallon the owner and tour guide of Martry Mill shared his extensive knowledge with our students. The students had the opportunity to bake a loaf of wholemeal bread using flour straight from the mill itself. They learned about the mill's history and got to watch the different stages of flour production. It was such a great chance to visit an old mill and see how it works firsthand.

Transition Year



Walking Tour of Kells

TY Tourism class had a fantastic trip to our local Heritage Centre and did a walking tour of Kells including St Colmcille's house. Libby Finegan from the centre provided an amazing, fact-filled historic tour of Kells and its High Crosses.

It was also wonderful to see the beautiful display created by past teachers and pupils of St. Ciaran's Community School. The display is a timeless gem—Libby even said, 30 years on, it's still a firm favourite with tourists!



Garda Operational Unit

Our students had a great day at the Garda Operations Day in Westmanstown! They got to explore so many Garda units—air, water, dog, mounted—and discover what it takes to be a member of the Garda Síochána. We even met up with two of our TY students who were doing work experience with the Gardai. A fantastic opportunity not to be missed!

Transition Year



Volunteering at the Book of Memories Café

TY students, Emmet Walsh and Harvey English volunteered at the Book of Memories Café this term! Held monthly at Eureka House Tea Rooms, the café is a welcoming, safe space for people with dementia, plus their families and friends.

What a beautiful chance for our community to rally together, lift each other up, and share meaningful moments. So proud to see our students stepping up and making a difference.



Drama and Theatre

Our TY Drama and Theatre students had a great day at The Gate Theatre today where they enjoyed a fantastic performance of A Christmas Carol. The show truly came to life thanks to incredible stagecraft and lighting. For many of our students, this was their first theatre visit, and it did not disappoint! A truly enjoyable performance that brought Dickens' classic to life before our eyes.

Junior Certificate Results Day



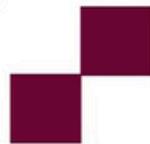
Students gathered with excitement as they received their long-awaited Junior Certificate results. After three years of dedication, hard work, and perseverance, the smiles on their faces said it all — every study session, project, and exam had truly paid off.

The school marked the occasion with a special ceremony held in the main hall, where students were joined by their families to celebrate this important milestone. The atmosphere was filled with a wonderful blend of relief, joy, and accomplishment as each student accepted their results.

Teachers and staff were equally delighted, taking great pride in seeing the students achieve the success they worked so hard for. The event concluded with plenty of photo opportunities, ensuring students could capture the memory of this momentous day.



Junior Certificate Results Day



Junior Certificate Results Day



Junior Certificate Results Day



Junior Certificate Results Day



Junior Certificate Results Day



LCA Activities



5th & 6th LCA Garden Centre Trip

5th and 6th Year LCA groups enjoyed a trip to Johnstown Garden Centre, Co Kildare recently. This trip was part of the Horticulture Module they are currently studying. In the Garden Centre they were given a tour by the plant manager. He guided them around the various departments and explained what the garden centre sold. The students then filled in a questionnaire and explored the Garden Centre themselves. The trip was rounded off by a visit to Blancharstown Shopping Centre for some Christmas shopping. It was great to see the students show a great interest in the visit and enjoy the outing so much.



Thanks to Mr Cooke, Ms Quinn, Alison and Pauline for their help on the trip.

LCA Activities



LCA Bake Sale

5LCA Hotel, Tourism and Catering raised €170 today in aid of our local Soup Kitchen in Navan. This was a fantastic success and for such a worthy cause, especially at this time of year. They worked so hard creating these delicious treats.

Huge thanks to this brilliant group, their amazing teacher Ms Mairead Clarke, and our fantastic SNAs Sharon Bolger, Barry Monaghan, and Pauline Rooney!



Pumpkin Carving

At Halloween Mr. Cooke taught our 5th and 6th LCA students the amazing skill of pumpkin carving as part of their Horticulture Module.

The students really enjoyed carving the pumpkins and displaying their creative and unique designs. A lovely tradition to keep alive.



Park Rí Visit

5LCA hotel catering and tourism class completed a key assignment by visiting Park Rí! This was a fantastic insight into businesses in action.

Damien Duffy, the manager at Park Rí, kindly took the time to chat with our students about running a successful business, while the wonderful head chef Paul Duffy gave us a tour of the workplace kitchens.



What's Happening with Erasmus+

There's so much going on! Our students have been working hard on their assignments to boost academic results, improve attendance, and keep their Erasmus journals up to date. We've seen fantastic creativity with posters from Chloe McDonnell, Jasmine McNamara, Dominykas Lomajevs, Charlie McEntee, Dylan Murtagh and Oskar Kevin Korz for Halloween, plus PowerPoint presentations and a brilliant logo design by Chloe and Jasmine.

November was action-packed for teachers too!

Mr. Carney and Ms. Fox travelled to Colmar, France, to visit our partner school, Collège Episcopal St. André, ahead of next May's student exchange. They explored exciting lessons like science taught through English, creative translation workshops, and cultural discussions about Ireland and France. They even attended the school's Open Day, which was full of energy and international spirit.

Why Colmar is a Christmas Wonderland:

Picture streets glowing with fairy lights, colourful houses like gingerbread cottages, and magical Christmas markets filled with treats. Colmar is known as the "Little Venice" of Alsace because of its pretty canals—it's the perfect festive destination!

Fun Facts about Colmar:

- Home to some of Europe's most beautiful Christmas markets.
- Inspired the setting for Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*!
- Birthplace of the sculptor who designed the Statue of Liberty.
- Surrounded by vineyards on the famous Alsace Wine Route.

German Visitors in Kells:

German teachers Melanie Enderle Bassler and Steffen Schweitzer from the Zeppelin Realschule in the town of Singen recently concluded a highly successful Erasmus visit to St. Ciaran's, leaving students with a deeper understanding of German culture, a taste of local specialities, and an insight into the passion for German football. They also came bearing many gifts of a mostly culinary nature, including Lebkuchen and the obligatory Haribos, which went down a treat with both teachers and students alike.

During the visit, the Steffen and Melanie's enthusiasm for imparting the nuances of their culture was palpable, as they actively engaged with students in various classes. A highlight of the exchange was the special delivery of handwritten letters from German students in Singen. Our students were thrilled to receive personal correspondence and writing their return letters in German allows them to connect directly with their European peers and providing a practical, real-world application for their German studies.

They saw a variety of lessons including swimming and German with Gina Reilly, Irish with Naoise Collins and Eimear McEnroe, French with Colm Carney, music with Keri McQuillan & Simon Cadden and History with Shane Kenneally.

They also enjoyed a tour of the historic parts of Kells and left excited for their return in March! The successful visit is a testament to the power of the Erasmus programme in promoting international cooperation and enriching the educational experience for both students and staff.

Looking Ahead:

With all this activity, we're building strong international friendships and learning new ideas to make school life even better. We can't wait for the exciting exchanges in 2026!

Erasmus Programme



Extra-Curricular

Our school continues to flourish with an exceptional range of extra-curricular activities that are as varied as they are inclusive. From sports and music to games club, there truly is something for everyone. These opportunities allow students to discover new interests, develop their talents, and experience a fully rounded education beyond the classroom.

None of this would be possible without the dedication and generosity of our teachers, who give their time and energy to support all our students. Their commitment ensures that every student has the chance to get involved, grow in confidence, and find their place in our school community.

In particular, a special thank you to Mr. Comaskey, Mr. Carry, Mr. Dunne, Mr. Kenneally, Mr. Wright, Mr. Gardiner, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Farrelly, Mr. Lynch, Mr. McBride, Mr. Cadden, Mr. Cooke, Mr. Kilgallen, Mr. Connell, Ms. Byrne, Ms. McEnroe, Ms. Collins, and Ms. McQuillan and everyone on staff who makes the extra-curricular activities possible.

Senior Rugby

The Senior Cup rugby team has brought plenty of excitement to the first half of the season, showing passion, resilience, and school spirit in every match. Their well-earned victory was a highlight, while the other games, including the league final, gave them valuable experience and strengthened their bond as a team. As the Christmas break arrives, the squad can look back proudly on their efforts and look forward with determination to the Shield competition in the New Year. With fresh energy after the holidays, they're ready to light up the pitch once again — and the whole school community will be cheering them on!

From all of us on the Senior Cup team, we wish the school community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Boys Gaelic

First Year Boys

The 1st Year Gaelic football team have had a fantastic start to the season, with impressive wins over Boyne CS, Trim, and St Mary's, Dundalk, securing a place in the knockout stages after Christmas. It's been great to see so many students representing their local clubs, and the large squad has meant plenty of action and opportunities for all players. Team spirit, skill, and determination have been evident in every match, earning praise from coaches and support from classmates and families. The players are looking forward to building on their success in the coming weeks- congratulations to the team on their achievements so far!



Junior Football

Our junior football team made a brilliant start to the 2025/26 season with two successive wins against tough opponents. On their first outing of the year, they faced Kilcock's Scoil Dara in an exciting game that ebbed and flowed until our lads pulled away in the second half in impressive style. Our second game pitted us against Oaklands College in Edenderry. In tough conditions, our lads displayed grit and determination to come out on top in a hotly contested battle. With these two victories, St Ciarán's topped the group and now await a Leinster quarter final in January. Best of luck lads!



Boys Gaelic



2nd Gaelic Football

Our 2nd Year footballers enjoyed a memorable and hard-fought campaign this term, representing St Ciaran's with pride, passion and great determination throughout.

The team opened their championship journey against Killbeggan, losing out narrowly in a very competitive contest. They bounced back superbly in the next round with a fantastic win over Rathangan, securing their place in the North Leinster Quarter Final.

In the last eight, St Ciaran's made the short trip to Munterconnaught to face local rivals St Oliver's Oldcastle. A strong start saw us take an early lead and captain Senan Arkins' words clearly inspired the team. Despite this, Oldcastle struck two goals late in the first half, and while our lads fought bravely—helped by excellent saves from Fionn Rourke—we were unable to overturn the deficit. Spirited second-half scores from Daire Beacroft and Adam Harte brought us within three points, but Oldcastle held on to progress to the semi-finals.

Although the journey ends here, the boys can be incredibly proud of their efforts all season. Their commitment and teamwork have been outstanding, and they have represented the school brilliantly. To round off the year, the team enjoyed a well-deserved refuel in Park Rí.

Boys Gaelic



Senior Gaelic

Our Senior boys football team have had a great term to date, qualifying for the semi finals of the league and championship after some excellent displays this year.

The team defeated Oldcastle, Moyne and Ballymahon to reach the last four in the North Leinster B League, while wins versus Kilbeggan and Boyne Community School was enough to get to the semi finals of the Championship. Well done to all involved.

First Year Gaelic Blitz



Not even the rain could dampen the excitement as over 50 first-year students took part in our annual Gaelic Blitz this term— a fantastic way for the lads to make new friends while enjoying an afternoon of football. Great skill, effort and teamwork were on display throughout, creating a brilliant atmosphere from start to finish.



The finals brought huge anticipation, especially during the pre-match parade. Dublin emerged as overall winners and will hold the bragging rights this year, while Meath, Cork and Kerry all put in strong performances across the tournament. The Individual Award went to Danny Keane for his excellent leadership within his team. A special word of thanks must go to our 3rd Year students, who did an outstanding job as team coaches, referees and match trackers.

Boys Hurling

Junior Hurling

Our junior hurlers played Scoil Dara and Castlepollard CC in the first and second round of the championship. With many players impressing. The juniors won both games and now await St. Patrician's of Newbridge in the semi final On Jan 7th. There is a great team spirit in the group. Some of the many impressive performances throughout the group campaign came from players such as Conan Clarke, Rps McDonnell and Adam D'Arcy.



Senior Hurling



Our Senior Hurling team began their campaign with an impressive home win over Dunshaughlin, showcasing great teamwork and determination throughout the match. Shane Callaghan and Zach Boshell led the scoring on the day, putting in standout performances that helped secure the victory. The team now turns their focus to their next outing, an important away fixture against Scoil Dara Kilcock. A win here would guarantee a well-earned quarter-final place after Christmas, giving the squad plenty to play for in the coming week.

Boys Basketball

Junior Basketball

The junior basketball squad opened the season with a challenging loss, falling 43-31 to Beaufort. Despite the rocky start, the team bounced back in impressive fashion, defeating Boyne CS 48-14 in their next game. However, unfortunately they lost out to Colaiste Oiriall in the North East quarter finals in late November. Despite their determination, they just fell short on the day. The entire team worked hard this term and no doubt will return stronger next year. Well done to all.



Senior Basketball

The lads kicked off the season on a high note with a 43-24 victory over Ratoath, signaling strong early form and team cohesion. While the subsequent fixtures brought tough challenges with defeats to Beaufort and Boyne, the experiences only strengthened the squad and highlighted areas for growth. The players demonstrated remarkable effort, resilience, and sportsmanship on display—competing hard, communicating well, and supporting one another throughout every game.

We're confident they'll take these lessons forward, build on the progress made, and bounce back even stronger next year. The team should be proud of their performances, and their dedication both on and off the court has been truly commendable.

Boys Soccer

U15 Soccer

The St Ciaran's U15 team got their league campaign off to a winning start with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Enfield. A crucial, well-taken late goal by Killian Madden in the second half sealed the result for the lads. It was a determined team performance, with Senan Arkins leading by example in midfield. Enfield almost snatched an equaliser with the final kick of the game, but goalkeeper Shea Fagan produced a brilliant last-ditch save to secure the win. Despite a setback against Coláiste de Lacy Ashbourne, the boys have earned their place in a quarter-final in the new year—well deserved after an excellent effort throughout the group stage.



U17 Soccer

The under 17 soccer team have shown quality, commitment and togetherness turning in a great performance against a strong Boyne Community School team to run out comfortable winners recently. The intensity levels in trials and training were evident early on in the year and as the months went on the team were finally able to show their quality when it mattered against good opposition. The team are looking to progress beyond a difficult group made up of Boyne Community School, Dundalk Grammar and St Peter's College Dunboyne and have set themselves up well to do so.



Girls Basketball

The girls played in the U16 North East competition across the first term. We played four matches against Monaghan, O Fiadh College Drogheda, Dundalk Grammar and Drogheda ETSS. The girls played to the best of their ability and performed well. They were beaten in the quarter final by Drogheda ETSS in a closely fought game. We play in the first and second year competition after Christmas.





Junior Girls Gaelic



The girls' junior Gaelic football team put in a brilliant effort this term, competing in a series of very competitive and tightly contested games. While the results didn't fall our way, the girls displayed outstanding determination, skill, and teamwork from start to finish. It was fantastic to see 30 girls tog out, led by co-captains Tegan McCabe and Holly Farrell. The team battled for every ball and represented the school with great pride and sportsmanship. Their positive attitude and never-give-up spirit were truly admirable, and we are incredibly proud of their performances.

First Year Girls Soccer



This year marked an exciting milestone as we set up our schools first ever girls soccer team. With great enthusiasm our girls trained together and proudly represented our school in their debut match against Crumlin. Although we didn't secure a win this time, the team showed fantastic spirit, determination and teamwork throughout. We are looking forward to seeing how the team develops and hope to have more matches next year. Special mention to Ruth Smyth and Shannon Reilly who delivered standout performances.

Pope John Paul II Awards 2025



Massive congratulations to our incredible students (L-R): Connor Finn, Tom Treacy, Evan Connell, Lauren Smyth, Darragh Smith, Jack McCormack, and Michael Ryan for earning gold medals from Bishop Tom in the Pope John Paul II Awards in Mullingar this term. Also receiving the award were Jake Prior, Fionn Morris and Lucas Smyth who, unfortunately were unable to attend the ceremony.

Special congratulations to Tom Treacy for receiving the highest national honour, the Papal Cross, at the ceremony.

A huge thank you to their teachers, Chaplain Sean Wright and Ms. Janette Carry, for attending today's ceremony and encouraging them all the way!



Student Success Stories

MEATH SCHOOLS

Congratulations to our St Ciaran's lads and their Meath Schools team who beat Maynooth Ed. Campus 2-10 to 1-12 today in the Iarbhunscoileanna Laighean – Peil Sinsir, Leinster Senior Football 'A' Group Team Final in Pairc Tailteann!. They now go on to Leinster Colleges A quarter final!



FIRST GLOBAL CHALLENGE

Elliot Morris, 5th Year, travelled to Panama during midterm to compete in the FIRST Global Challenge. The FIRST Global Challenge is an Olympics-style international robotics competition that takes place in a different country each year. FIRST Global invites each nation to send a team to build and programme a robot to compete.

Elliot and his team placed 8th out of 181 countries in their ranked games.



Four Time All-Ireland Boxing Champion

Four time All-Ireland Boxing Champion Kenia Prado travelled to the European U15 Championship where

Kenia kicked off her campaign with a win over Azerbaijan's Aysan Miriyeva. She advanced all the way to the quarterfinals, and we are very proud of her achievements.



46kg- Glasnevin BC, Dublin

Student Success Stories



Irish Dancing Champion

Congratulations and well done to our fantastic second year student Sophie Conroy who won the u15 North Leinster Regional Championships!

Well done, we are so incredibly proud of you Sophie .



Horse Racing

Congratulations and well done to Paddy Finnegan, second-year student, crowned champion jockey this summer at Dingle Races. Fantastic achievement, Paddy.



U15 All-Ireland Cross Country

Congratulations to Daire Beacroft as he placed 3rd in the U15 Boys All Ireland Cross Country 3500m in Abbotstown, Dublin, in December.

A fantastic achievement from Daire and we are very proud of him.

Student Representatives



STUDENT COUNCIL

In September our Student Council was elected. The Student Council has been involved in many activities throughout the term including supervising and running our school library as well as generously collecting for the shoebox appeal and holding a raffle in aid of St Colmcille's nursing home. Our fantastic council members are pictured (L-R) Sulet Stander (Deputy Chair), Jack Wall (Chairperson), Hannah Nelson (Diversity Officer), Ellie Lynch (PR), Cain Byrne (Secretary) and Denis Polovsky (Treasurer).

PREFECTS

Congratulations to Casey Anne Brennan and Fionn Cleary who have been selected as our new Head Prefect and Deputy Head Prefect! Both of these amazing students have shown exceptional leadership, dedication, and a true commitment to our school's values.

As they take on their new roles, we're confident that Casey Anne and Fionn will be outstanding ambassadors for our school community, inspiring their peers and representing St. Ciaran's with pride and integrity. Huge congratulations to you both on this well-deserved achievement!



Green Schools Committee



Future Plans for our Green Schools Committee

This term, we were delighted to welcome Rory McGuire from Green Schools to St Ciaran's. Rory spent the morning working with us as we begin our journey toward earning our next Green Flag, this time with a focus on the theme of Travel. He shared valuable insights on sustainable transport, the importance of reducing our carbon footprint, and the many small changes our school community can make to create a healthier, safer environment for everyone.

The visit sparked great enthusiasm among the pupils, who engaged eagerly with the activities and discussions. We now have plenty of creative and practical ideas to explore, and we're excited to begin turning these into real actions over the coming months. We look forward to building on this momentum as we continue our Green Schools journey together.



ECO Shop

This initiative has been a fantastic success for our environment and also for our local families, helping them reduce back-to-school costs. Parents can pick up preowned items at our Eco shop at the beginning of the school year. We're excited to keep growing this amazing initiative into the future.

Christmas At St Ciaran's



Christmas Jumper Day

Our Christmas Jumper Day took place once again this December, bringing a cheerful burst of colour and festive fun to the school corridors. Students, teachers and staff arrived in their brightest, boldest and most creative Christmas jumpers, all while contributing a €2 donation to support this year's charities. The funds raised will go towards two very important causes: The National Children's Hospital and our local St Vincent de Paul, both of which play vital roles in supporting families and individuals in need. The event was a fantastic opportunity to come together as a school community, spread some Christmas cheer and make a meaningful difference.



Christmas Door Competition

Our annual School Christmas Door Competition is taking place this December, and the excitement is already building! Each class is teaming up with their teacher to design and decorate a festive classroom door, bringing plenty of creativity and holiday cheer to our halls. The beautifully crafted doors will be judged by our Art teacher, Ms. Byrne, who will select this year's winning design. Good luck to all classes—let the decorating begin!

Christmas At St Ciaran's



Carol Service in St Colmcille's Church

Our Annual Carol Service took place in St Colmcille's Church this December, where the whole school community gathered to enjoy a wonderful afternoon of seasonal Christmas music. The choir sang beautifully, filling the church with festive spirit, and our students performed a short nativity on the altar, bringing the story of Christmas to life with great enthusiasm and reverence. It was a joyful celebration and a lovely way to mark the season together.



Happy Christmas

As we come to the end of a busy term we want to thank our whole school community for the hard work, enthusiasm, and kindness that have filled these past months. We wish everyone a happy, healthy, and peaceful Christmas, and hope you enjoy a well-deserved break with family and friends.

St. Ciarán's Community School
Kells, Co. MEath



Pursuing Excellence Together
Omnes Virtutem Sequentes

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