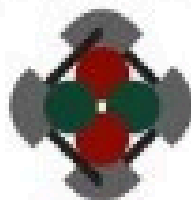
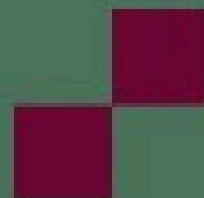


ST CIARÁN'S
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



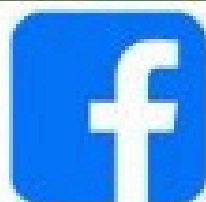
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St. Ciarán's Community School
Kells Co. Meath
A82N677



St. Ciarán's Community School

May Newsletter 2026



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A Word from Us



As we approach the end of another busy and rewarding academic year in St. Ciarán's Community School, it is a fitting time to reflect on the many achievements and milestones that have defined our school community over the past year.

This year our students, coupled with support of their teachers have, have made great strides in their development both in and out of the classroom.

Congratulations to all our students who have won awards this year at our annual awards ceremony, but also throughout the year for the contribution that they make to our school, in their school work and extracurricular activities. Beyond the classroom, our students have excelled in a wide range of sporting and co-curricular activities. Participation levels have been exceptionally high this year, reflecting the inclusive and vibrant spirit of our school.

In particular, we wish to extend a very special congratulations to both our Senior and First Year Football Team, both of whom were victorious this year by securing North Leinster Championship titles in their respective competitions. These achievements are a testament to the talent and hard work of both the players, and their coaches. Their success has been a source of great pride for all of us and has brought a wonderful sense of celebration to the school.

As we look ahead to the coming weeks, we would like to send our best wishes and wish our 3rd year and 6th year students on their upcoming Leaving Certificate examinations. We commend them for their hard work throughout the year and encourage them to approach their examinations with confidence. We have every faith in their ability to perform to the very best of their potential.

We also take this opportunity to warmly welcome our incoming first year students, who will be joining us in the new academic year. We look forward to meeting you and to supporting you as you begin the next stage of your educational journey.

Finally, we would like to thank all members of our school community, students, staff, parents and the Board of Management, for their ongoing support and commitment. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and we wish everyone a restful and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to welcoming you all back in the new school year.

Warm regards,

Cara McLoughlin

Principal

Pat O'Sullivan

Deputy Principal

School Calendar 2026/2027

School Calendar 2026 – 2027

Year	Date	Event
2026 Term 1	September 28 th	School Closure
	October 1 st	School Closure: SCT Cluster Day
	October 8 th	Open Night
	October 13 th	3 rd Year Parent – Teacher Meeting
	October 19 th – 23 rd	3 rd & 6 th Year Midterm Examinations
	October 26 th – 30 th	Midterm Break

Year	Date	Event
2026 Term 2	November 11 th	6 th Year Parent – Teacher Meeting
	November 25 th	5 th Year Parent – Teacher Meeting
	December 1 st	School Closure: SCT Planning Day
	December 7 th	School Closure
	December 15 th – 22 nd	1 st , 2 nd & 5 th Year Christmas Examinations
	December 23 rd – January 5 th	Christmas Break

Year	Date	Event
2027 Term 3	January 12 th	2 nd Year Parent – Teacher Meeting
	January 18 th – 29 th	3 rd & 6 th Year Mock Examinations
	January 28 th	1 st Year Parent – Teacher Meeting
	February 1 st	St. Bridget's Day: Bank Holiday
	February 15 th – 19 th	Midterm Break

Year	Date	Event
2027 Term 4	March 17 th	St. Patrick's Day Bank Holiday
	March 22 nd – April 2 nd	Easter Break

Year	Date	Event
2027 Term 5	May 3 rd	Bank Holiday
	May 4 th	School Closure
	May 31 st – June 4 th	1 st , 2 nd & 5 th Year Summer Examinations
	June 7 th	School Closure: Bank Holiday
	June 8 th – 29 th	State Examinations

What happened this term?



World Book Day Competition

Congratulations to Max Smakowski for winning the Senior Writing Competition held for World Book Day! Also big well done to Eanna Sheridan for coming in a close second.

Both students produced incredibly creative pieces and truly deserved to be recognised for their efforts.



NLSAU Track and Field

Congratulations to both Jonah Beacroft and Tehan Stander. Jonah did exceptionally well achieving 4th place in Senior Discus, just 10cm shy of 3rd. An excellent result for his very first discus competition! Tehan shone again today with a gold in Intermediate Discus. Huge congratulations to both.



Rygby League Panel

Congratulations to Harvey English and Oskaras Vitkauskas who were selected as part of the U16 Rygby League of Ireland panel! The boys will be travelled to Manchester on March 7th to begin their training! Well done lads, we are very proud of you!

Term Highlights



Fifth Year Seachtain na Gaeilge Winners

Congratulations to the fifth year winners of Ms Gallagher's Seachtain na Gaeilge Quiz. A great display of knowledge on display.

Maith sibh a bhuachailli agus buiochas mor le Ms Gallagher as an trath na gceist a eagra.



First Year Podcasting

1st Years have been learning all about podcasts. Students worked in groups to create their very own podcast, putting their creativity to the test while also listening to examples of podcasts in the real world.

Students explored how podcasts are structured, how to plan engaging discussions, and how to communicate clearly with an audience. They then collaborated with their classmates to plan, script and record their own episodes.



Erasmus Students

Our welcome Erasmus guests from France and Germany joined us for Gaelic lessons led by our fantastic students. They were immersed in Irish culture and sport, had some great laughs, and picked up some real skills along the way. Huge thanks to Ms. Fox for organising everything!

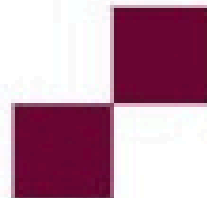


German Speed Dating

This term, we welcomed Erasmus students and teachers from Germany to St Ciaran's. And what better way for everyone to get to know each other than with a fun speed dating session?!

A fantastic icebreaker for all involved, giving students a chance to practice both German and English, with lots of laughter and connections.

Student Life Updates



Sportsperson of the Month - February

Our sports star of the month for February is 3rd Year student Harry Keating! A real team leader on the pitch who put in a number of stellar performances for the Junior footballers on their way to a North Leinster final. A fantastic ambassador for the school. Well done Harry



Cross Country Running

Super running from Dáire Beacroft in Belfast at the All Ireland Schools' XC finals! Dáire finished in 16th Place in a very large and strong field! A fantastic run, Dáire—well done. We are very proud of you!



Sportsperson of the Month - January

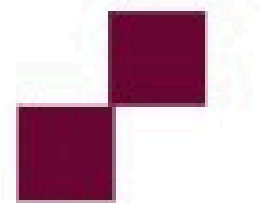
Our sports star of the month for January is 1st year student, Emmet Nolan. Emmet produced a number of outstanding performances for the school's basketball team over the past few months. A real leader who always gives it his all on the court. Well done Emmet!



County Enterprise Finalist

Well done, Luke Shannon (2nd year) for his fantastic subscription-based gardening service — winner of the Intermediate Sustainability Award in the County Enterprise Finals in The Knightsbrook Hotel in Trim.

Around Our School



First Year Wellbeing

We were delighted to welcome Damien Sheridan to our school to lead a workshop for our 1st year classes as part of our Wellbeing programme. Students had the opportunity to discuss their goals and mental strength during their first year in secondary school. A wonderfully uplifting session for our amazing first years. Huge thanks to Damien, and to our fantastic teachers Mr James Lynch and Ms Noreen Fleming for making it possible.



Lidl Serious Support

We are absolutely delighted to unveil our brand new jerseys, received as part of being a proud Lidl Serious Support School.

This fantastic initiative continues to support schools and promote girls' participation in sport, and we are so grateful to be involved. The girls are thrilled with the new gear and can't wait to wear it with pride in the seasons ahead.

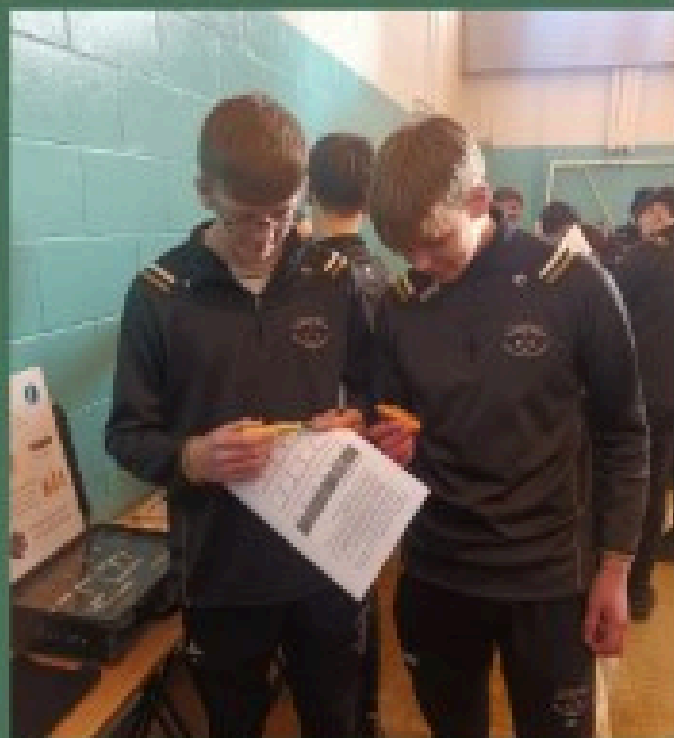


Sponsorship from Kenny Morgan of Maple Financial

Huge thanks to past pupil Kenny Morgan of Maple Financial for sponsoring training tops for our senior boys' football team ahead of their Leinster semi-final.

Not only is Kenny a former student, but was also a member of the last St Ciaran's team to win North Leinster. THANK YOU so much Kenny for your generosity and support of the next generation

Transition Year



Forensic Workshop

Our Transition Year Students had a great time at the **FORENSIC WORKSHOP** diving into the evidence around the assassination of JFK!

From ballistics to fingerprints, facial recognition to autopsy, trace evidence and more, students delved deep into the world of forensics. They explored various theories and historical connections, sparking some serious critical thinking. What an incredibly interesting and fun way to spend your day!



Barbering Workshop

Fresh looks, fresh skills!

Our Transition Year students got some fancy new haircuts yesterday during Lizzie McGhee's Barber Workshop. A fantastic opportunity for them to learn a new skill and try something fun. Well done to everyone, and a huge thank you to Lizzie for a truly enjoyable workshop!

Transition Year



TY Bodhran Workshop

What a fantastic day our TY classes had at a Bodhrán Making Workshop! Students built their own wooden bodhráns, gave them unique custom designs, and even learned to play their creations in a group setting.

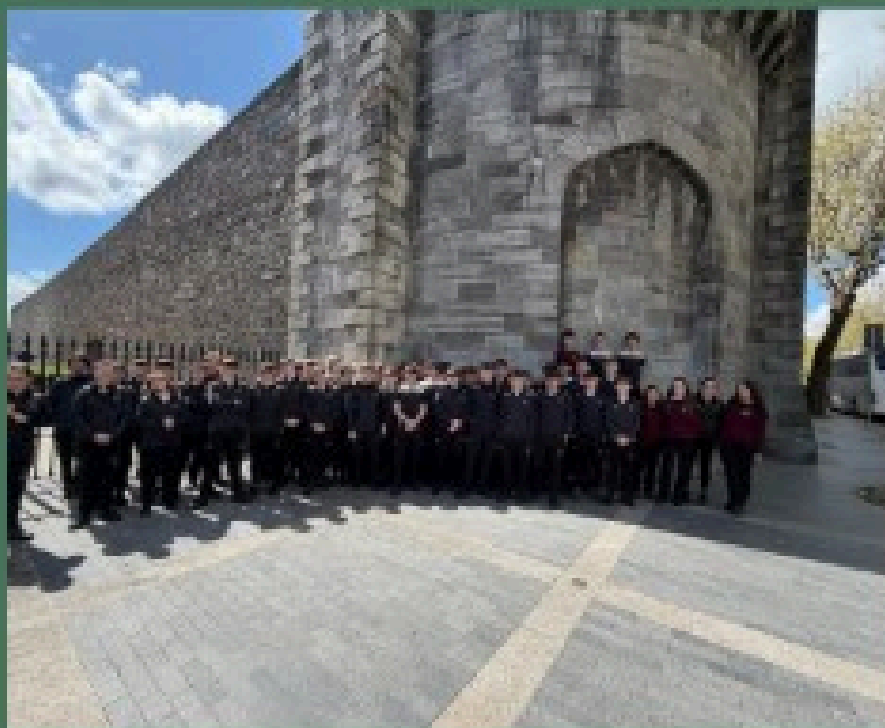
This was a wonderfully educational cross-curricular experience, blending woodwork, design, artistry, and music all in one day.



TY Baysports Adventure Park

Our TY students had an amazing time at Baysports Adventure Park this term! They braved the cold waters and had an absolute blast on the Lake inflatables! A great day out for everyone! Thank you to staff members Mr Daly, Mr Carney Mr Cadden, Ms Bashford and Ms Fitzsimons for accompanying the students

Transition Year



Kilmainham Gaol

Exciting day for our TY students today as they explored the rich history of Ireland with a visit to Kilmainham Gaol. A great learning opportunity and a chance to view our history in real life!

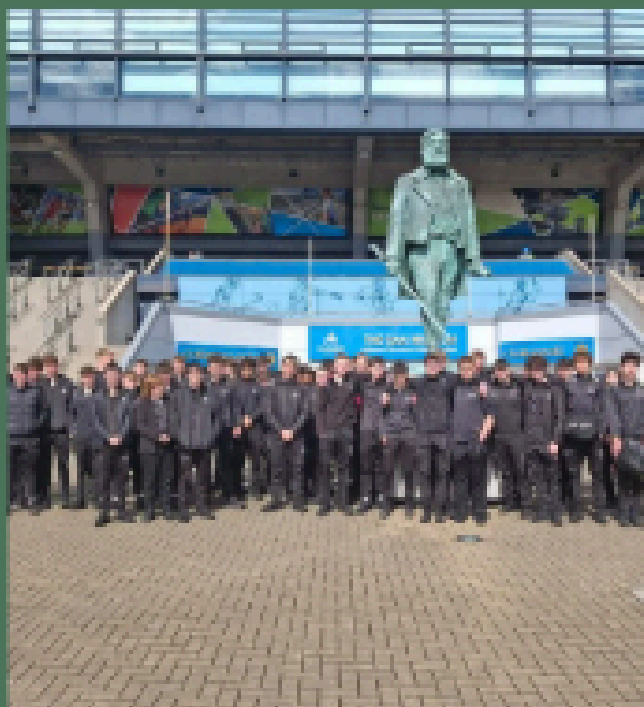
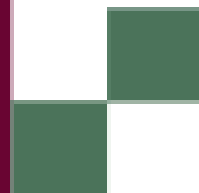


Caolon Cole Gym

Our TY students have been absolutely loving their visits to Caolan Coles Gym training each week. Caolan has really put them through their paces, but they come back rejuvenated every time, buzzing with a huge sense of achievement.

Huge thanks to Caolan for all his hard work and to Mr Daly for organising the visits.

Transition Year



TY CROKE PARK

A massive thank you to Croke Park for having our TY students on the Kelloggs Skyline and Museum tour as part of their Tourism module. A very enjoyable day was had by all and a few records set on some of the games in the museum. Many thanks to our fantastic teachers Mr. Comiskey, Ms. Clarke, and Ms. Smith and to our brilliant SNA's Alison Bashford and Geraldine Fitzsimons for accompanying our students.



TY EMERALD PARK

Our Transition Year students enjoyed a fantastic day out at Emerald Park recently, filled with excitement, adventure, and entertainment for everyone.

Thrill-seekers took on the high-speed twists and turns of the famous Cú Chulainn Coaster and experienced the adrenaline rush of the Fianna Force or the Viking Splash.

Meanwhile, those who preferred a more relaxed pace enjoyed the exotic and petting zoos.

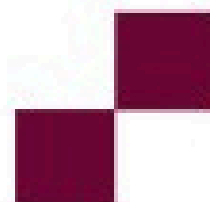
It was a fantastic day out for all, with plenty of fun, laughter, and memories made by everyone involved.

Student Awards 2026

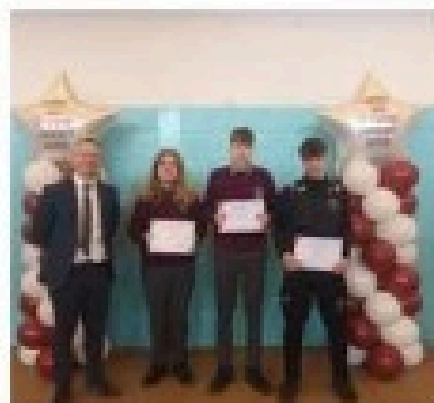
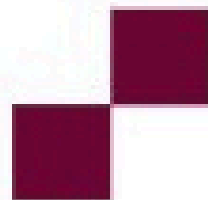
Student Awards took place this April, celebrating the achievements and dedication of our students. The event was a wonderful way to recognise and celebrate student success, shining a spotlight on the many talents and accomplishments within our school community. Awards were presented across a wide range of activities, both within the classroom and beyond. While not every student received an award this year, there will be many more opportunities in the years ahead. We encourage all students to continue striving, participating, and showcasing their abilities as they work towards future success.



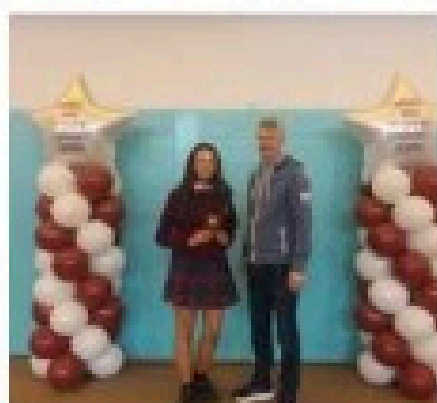
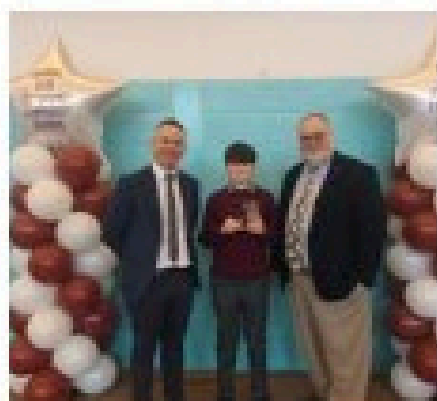
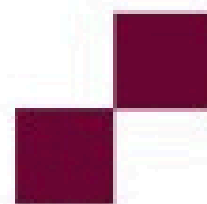
Student Awards 2026



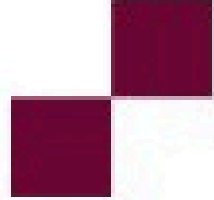
Student Awards 2026



Student Awards 2026



LCA Activities



Hotel, Catering and Tourism

Ms Clarke's 5th Year LCA students studying Hotel, Catering and Tourism had a fantastic tour of Headfort Arms Hotel learning all about the hospitality sector firsthand. They were spoiled with a tasty brunch and sampled some of the delicious goodies on offer.

Bloom 2026

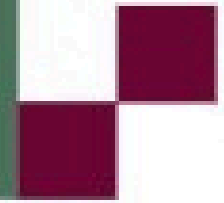


Congratulations to our LCA students from 5th and 6th year who were selected to display their postcard garden at Bloom this year!

This garden is created using students' creative and practical skills, and it aspires to showcase natural landscapes in the area they live in. It creates a calm, relaxing mood that encourages people to explore local natural spaces in a busy world.

It is a celebration of native plants in Irish boglands, and it also aims to inform people about plants unique to boglands, such as the carnivorous Sundew. We are so proud of our students for being selected and we cannot wait to see the finished garden at Bloom 2026 in the Phoenix Park!

St Ciaran's Annual Sports Day 2026



This term, St Ciaran's held its annual Sports Day, and what a fantastic day it was! With the sun shining brightly, students enjoyed a fun-filled day packed with activities, music, and games. Sports Day gave students the opportunity to take part in a wide variety of sports and activities, many of which they may never have tried before. Students of all abilities were encouraged to get involved, have fun, and give everything a go. Alongside the sporting events, there were art classes, music, and plenty of entertainment throughout the day, creating a wonderful atmosphere for everyone. At the end of the day, the winning students were proudly presented with their medals, celebrating their achievements and participation. It truly was a great day for the whole school community. A special word of thanks goes to Ciaran Dunne, who does an absolutely fantastic job organising this wonderful event each year.



St Ciaran's Annual 6th Years v Teachers



STUDENTS V TEACHERS 2026

It was game-on Friday 15th May with the Annual Students V Teachers showdown! This year's sport of choice was soccer, a perfect way to celebrate the end of a six year journey they have endured together. With pride and bragging rights on the line, it was all to play for!!

The teachers made the perfect start when the Deputy Principal broke the deadlock with a sublime header before the staff side quickly raced into a 2-0 lead. The students responded well, showing great determination to pull a goal back before referee Sean Gardiner blew the half-time whistle.

Both teams made plenty of changes at the break, but it was the teachers who produced the moment of the match early in the second half. Some quick thinking from kick-off caught student goalkeeper Cian Loughran off his line, resulting in an outstanding long-range finish.

In the end, bragging rights went the way of the teachers after a hugely enjoyable contest that perfectly showcased the fantastic school culture and community spirit in St Ciarán's, all brought together in true sporting fashion.

Well done to all the students and teachers who participated.

Senior Rugby



Our Senior Cup rugby team can look back on a season filled with determination, resilience and pride. Throughout the year, the squad showed tremendous commitment both on and off the pitch, representing the school with passion and heart in every match.

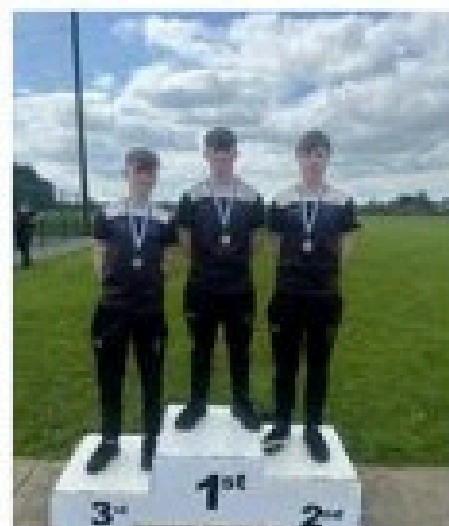
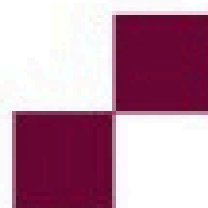
A major highlight of the season was reaching the final of the Leinster League Division. Although the result did not go our way on the day, the journey to the final was a testament to the hard work and dedication of every player involved.

The team also enjoyed an exciting run in the Senior Shield, battling their way to the quarter final. After a thrilling replay in the quarter final stage, the lads unfortunately fell just short once again. Despite the disappointment, the squad displayed incredible camaraderie and bravery throughout the campaign, working tirelessly for one another and never giving less than their all.

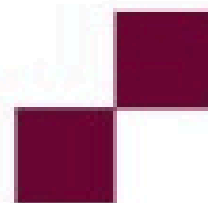
A special thank you must go to team captain Tehan Stander and vice-captain Patrick White for their outstanding leadership and commitment this season. Their dedication set the standard for the entire group and helped drive the team forward every step of the way.

This season has laid strong foundations for the future, and there is plenty to be proud of. Onwards and upwards.

Sports Day Winners 2026



Sports Day Winners 2026



Senior Boys Gaelic North Leinster Champions



Hard luck to our boys Senior footballers who lost the SFB league final by 3 points this May. Missing some players due to injury and illness, the lads put in a fantastic performance and were unlucky to come out on the wrong end of a thrilling game in Castleknock. The lads have had a brilliant year, going unbeaten in the league before getting to the SFB league final today and also capturing the North Leinster championship for the first time in nearly 30 years as well as getting to the Leinster semi final. It was also the last time we will see our 6th years in the St Ciaran's jersey. They have been great ambassadors for the school in their time in St Ciaran's and we wish them all the best in their future sporting, academic and working careers.

The team was:

Caoimhin Jordan, Robert O'Brien, Adam O'Brien,
Eoin Ennis, Liam Farrelly, Evan Demange, Luke Harte,
Sean McMahon, Hugh O'Reilly, Jake Coyne,
Eoin Fitzsimons, Tom Treacy, Dan O'Brien, Cathal
Donoghue, Jack Mc Cormack.

Rest of panel: Luke Quinn,
Callum Reilly, Kian Fitzsimons
Tom Treacy, Drew Donaghy
Dara Brennan, Darragh Smith
Henry Mc Cormack, Patrick White,
Zach Boshell, Shane Bennett, Jake Madden
Cian Loughran, Charlie Lynch
David Daly, Shane Callaghan,
Cian Madden, Conor Og Ferguson,
Odhran McMahon, Gavin Clarke, Aaronn Lynch,
Connor Finn, Ethan Douglas



First Year Gaelic North Leinster Champions



St Ciarans were crowned North Leinster Champions after a thrilling local derby victory over St Oliver's Oldcastle, played at the excellent facilities of Balinlough GFC, with thanks for their hospitality. Oldcastle started strongly and controlled much of the early play, but St Ciarans showed great determination and never let their heads drop. Key scores from Danny Keane and Brion Boylan kept the team within three points at half-time.

Oldcastle extended their lead early in the second half, going eight points ahead, but the impact from the bench once again proved crucial, with Josh Carroll and Louis Lynch bringing fresh energy and momentum. In a dramatic finish, a last-minute goal from Lorcan Codd sealed the victory. The final score was St Ciarans 8-9, St Oliver's Oldcastle 6-12. There were unforgettable scenes at the final whistle, with every player contributing to an incredible championship journey, followed by celebrations in the dressing room and a proud stop at Park Ri on the way back to school with the silverware.

First Year Soccer



Defeat in Quarter Final for St Ciarán's

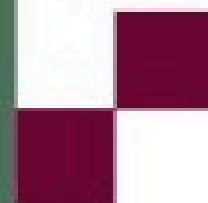
St Ciarán's made the long trip along the coast to face a strong Ardgillan side in the Division 1 quarter-final. Despite an early setback, St Ciarán's settled into the game well and created several chances to get back on level terms.

Goalkeeper Bobbi Tierney produced a number of fantastic saves to keep the visitors in the contest, but as St Ciarán's pushed forward in search of an equaliser, gaps appeared at the back which Ardgillan capitalised on through quick counter-attacks. The home side eventually ran out 4-0 winners.

Elliot Flood Norton finished the campaign as St Ciarán's top goalscorer after an impressive season in front of goal.

Reaching a Division 1 quarter-final has been a fantastic achievement for this 1st Year group, competing against some of the top schools in Leinster. There are plenty of positives to build on for next season, while the year also provided students with a great opportunity to meet new people and develop friendships during their first year in St Ciarán's.

ANNUAL EVENTS



Gaisce Trip TY

On Tuesday April 21st, our Transition Year students wrapped up their Gaisce programme with an overnight stay in Newcastle, Co Down, at the foot of the Mourne Mountains.

Over two days, they tackled amazing hiking routes and soaked in the beauty of Slieve Donard, Murlough Beach, and the Murlough National Nature Reserve. This was a great achievement for our students - they had a fantastic time and returned with tired legs but countless memories.

James Baugh Cup

Well done to our TY and 5th year students who defeated Dunshaughlin CC in the James Baugh Cup this year.

The cup is played annually in honour of James, who was valued student at St Ciaran's and an esteemed teacher in Dunshaughlin CC before he passed away in 2020.

Jason Boland from Dunshaughlin CC presented captains Luke Harte and Dan O'Brien with the trophy after a thrilling game in which St Ciaran's won by a point, 6-13 to 7-09.

Team: C Jordan, C Finn, E Ennis, T Reddy, D Donaghy, L Farrelly, C Reilly, C Og Ferguson, P White, R Campbell, A Lynch, L Harte, D O'Brien, K Fitzsimons, S Martin.
QA Subs: E Farrelly, D Smith, F McElheron, T Walsh, E Fitzsimons.



Learning Styles

Pictured at the learning styles display case are third years James Byrne and Robert Garry. Working together this term they gave learning styles feedback to the second years. The feedback was obtained from the analysis of the follow up learning styles survey completed earlier in the year. The follow up survey was done during second year tutorial time. Ms. Mairéad Clarke who is one of the tutors that observed the feedback had a lot of praise for the manner in which the feedback was given. Saying that their presentation was very confident, that the message was clearly delivered, clearly spoken and that they showed excellent communication skills.

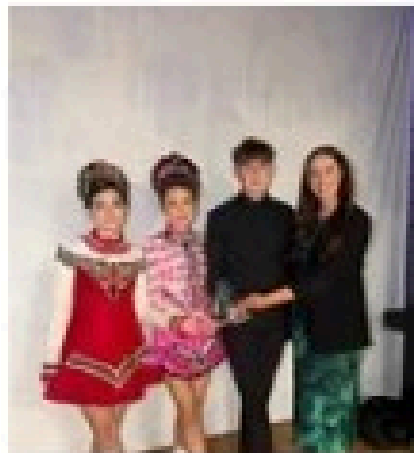
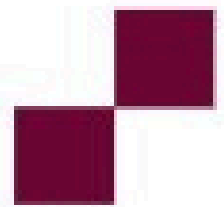
Congratulations lads on receiving such praise ! It's great to have such ability and skills. By participating in the initiative with Mr. Pat Gibney you developed your skills set and enhanced your overall educational experience.

Mr. Gibney would like to take this opportunity to thank all the third years who participated in all the collection, analysis and poster work during the year. They were James Byrne, Robert Garry, Brion Gilsean, Aleksander Kaczmarek, Aronas Pociunas, Brahmduitt Neduvelli Sreejith and Conor Thornton.

He also extends thanks to the second yr participating tutors - Ms. Mairéad Clarke, Mr. Ciarán Dunne, Mr. Conor Kilgallen and Ms. Sandra Reilly - whose support was very important throughout the initiative.



St Ciaran's Annual Talent Show 2026



On Thursday 7th May, St Ciaran's hosted its much-anticipated Annual Talent Show 2026, and what an incredible evening it was. The event showcased the amazing talents of our students, with fantastic performances from singers, dancers and musicians across all year groups.

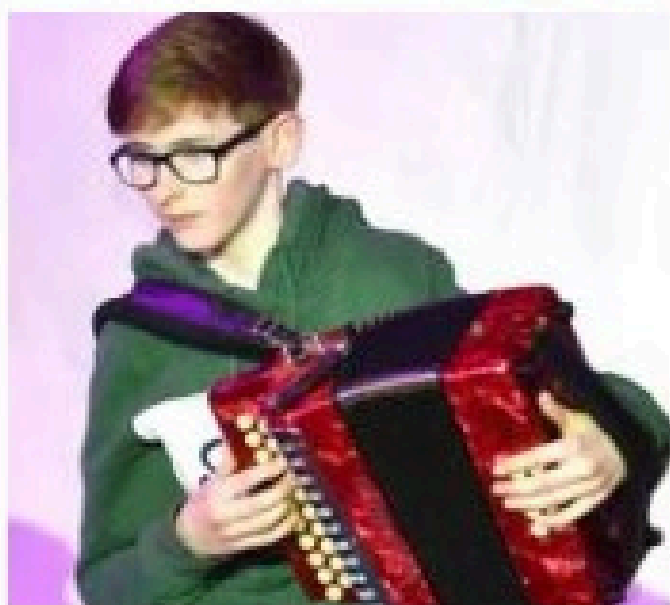
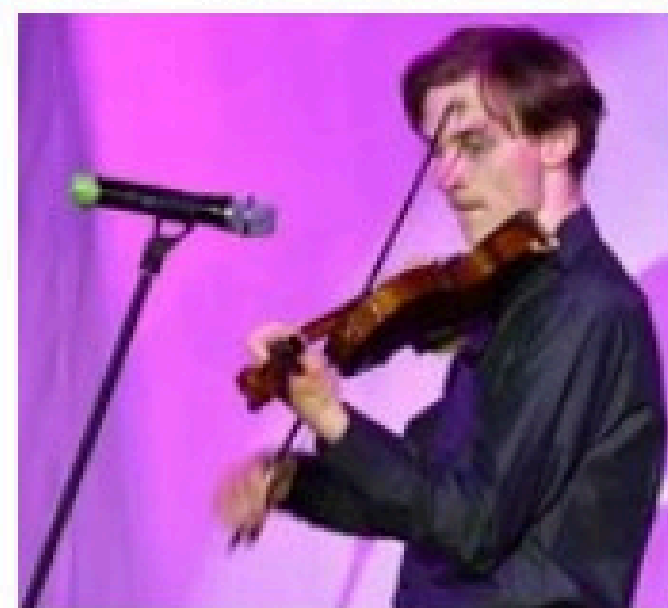
The variety and standard of talent on display were truly brilliant. From powerful vocal performances to energetic dance routines and impressive musical pieces, the audience was entertained from start to finish. It was wonderful to see such enthusiastic participation from students throughout the school, with everyone supporting and encouraging one another.

The event was exceptionally well organised and highlighted the strong sense of community within St Ciaran's. A huge thank you goes to all the teachers who supported the show and helped make the evening such a success. In particular, special recognition must go to Ms McQuillan, who generously gives so much of her own time each year to organise and showcase the talents of our students.

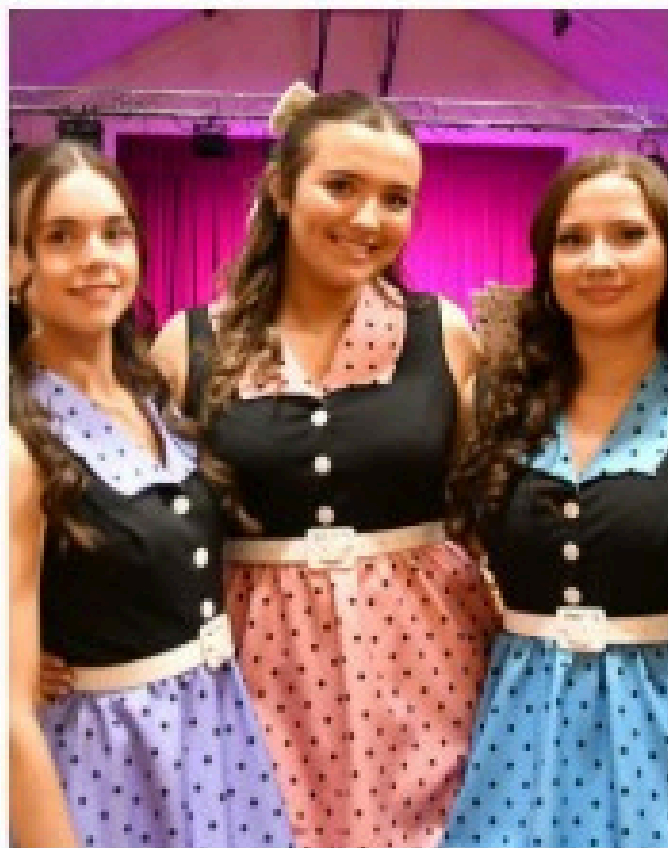
Massive congratulations to all the acts who took part. Performing in front of an audience takes great courage and commitment, and every participant should be extremely proud of themselves. A special congratulations also goes to this year's winners, whose outstanding performances deservedly earned them top honours on the night.

Well done to everyone involved in making the St Ciaran's Annual Talent Show 2026 such a memorable and enjoyable event. We are already looking forward to next year's show!

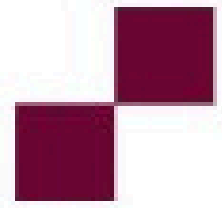
St Ciaran's Annual Talent Show



St Ciaran's Annual Talent Show



SKIING IN BORMIO, ITALY

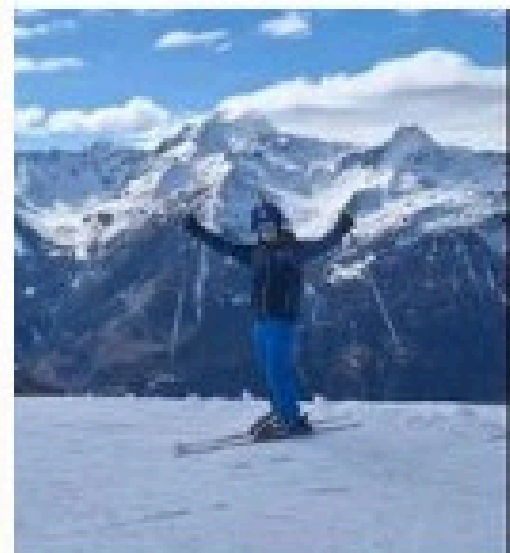
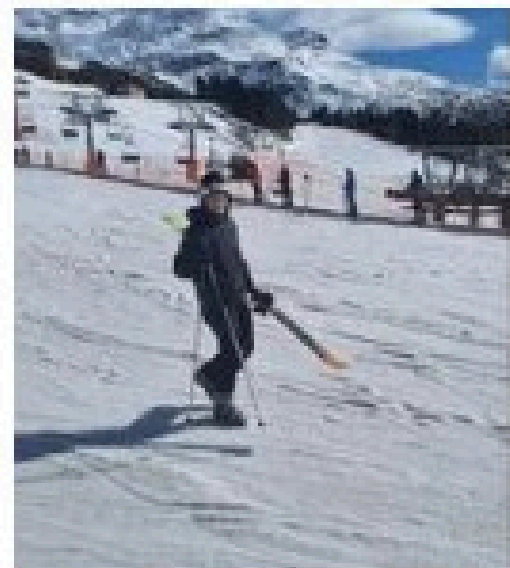


What an incredible week it was for St Ciarán's. Our group of 47 students and teachers had a fantastic six-day adventure in the sun-filled Alpine resort of Bormio.

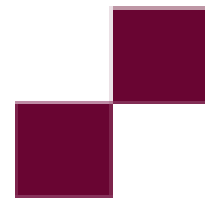
Throughout the trip, the students enjoyed daily ski lessons and made impressive progress on the slopes, showing growing confidence and technique with each run. The evenings were equally busy and enjoyable, featuring activities such as indoor football, swimming, ice skating, and a fiercely competitive quiz night that kept everyone on their toes. The week culminated in a well-earned pizza party, a perfect finale before the journey home.

The conduct of the students was exceptional, earning praise from hotel staff and ski instructors alike. Their teamwork and positive attitude contributed to a smooth, memorable experience for all involved.

Special thanks go to Mr Dunne, Ms Clarke, Mr McBride, and Mr Comaskey for their outstanding organisation, support, and guidance throughout the trip. Their dedication helped make this week in Bormio a standout moment in the school calendar.



6th Year Carlingford Trip

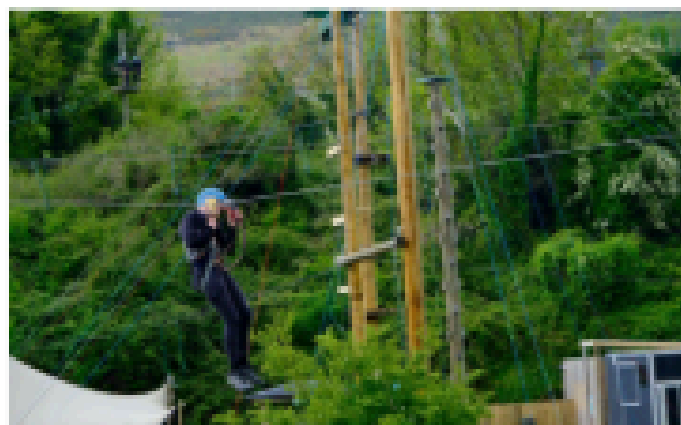


Our 6th Year students enjoyed a fantastic end-of-year adventure with a trip to Carlingford alongside their Year Head, Chaplain and tutors.

The students took part in a variety of exciting activities, which kept them fully engaged throughout the day!

The trip provided a wonderful opportunity for students to relax, let off steam, and enjoy some well-earned fun together after a busy school year. Most importantly, it allowed lasting memories and friendships to be strengthened as they celebrated the end of their time in school.

A fantastic time was had by all!



Annual St Ciarán's Bake Off!

This year's annual School Bake Off took place in January, with students showcasing their talents by creating a variety of delicious and mouthwatering treats. From beautifully decorated cakes to tempting pastries, the standard of baking on display was truly impressive.

Teachers attended the event and eagerly sampled the entries, carefully voting for their favourites. It was a fantastic celebration of students' skills and a lovely way to bring staff and students together. Congratulations to our winners, Zofia Dembinska and Johnny, for their outstanding creations. A huge thank you also goes to our wonderful Home Economics teachers for organising such an enjoyable and successful event.

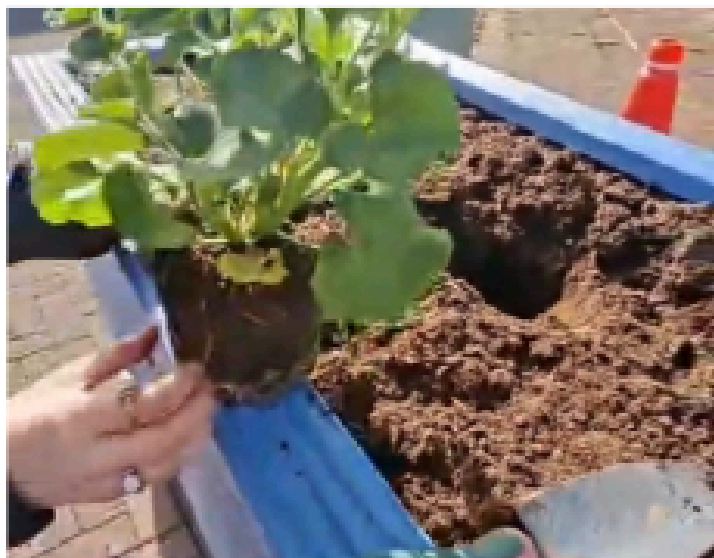


Student Council and our AS Class



The St Ciarán's Student Council has been extremely active this term, working hard to support and strengthen links within our local community through a number of worthwhile initiatives.

At Easter, the Student Council organised a raffle for a hamper to raise funds for St Colmcille's Nursing Home. The money raised will be used to purchase flowers for planting with the residents in the grounds of the nursing home. This thoughtful project will help brighten the outdoor spaces while also creating an enjoyable activity for residents and students alike.



The Student Council also teamed up with the students in the AS class to organise a successful Jersey Day in aid of the local Family Resource Centre. Students and staff showed fantastic support for the event, proudly wearing their favourite jerseys while raising money for an important community organisation. A fantastic €600 was raised by our wonderful AS Class and presented to The Kells Family Resource Centre. These events are a wonderful reflection of the kindness, leadership and community spirit shown by our students.



The Student Council, together with our AS Class members have demonstrated great initiative and commitment throughout the term and should be very proud of their efforts.

Green Schools Committee



A busy year for our Green Schools Committee

This year, the Green Schools Committee began working towards achieving our next Green Flag under the theme of Travel. We have had several meetings with Rory McGuire from Green Schools to discuss ideas and plan initiatives that will help make travel to and from school safer, healthier, and more environmentally friendly.

As part of our work, we carried out a walkability audit of the town and examined the speed zones for cars around Kells. These activities helped us identify ways to improve safety for students and encourage more walking and cycling.

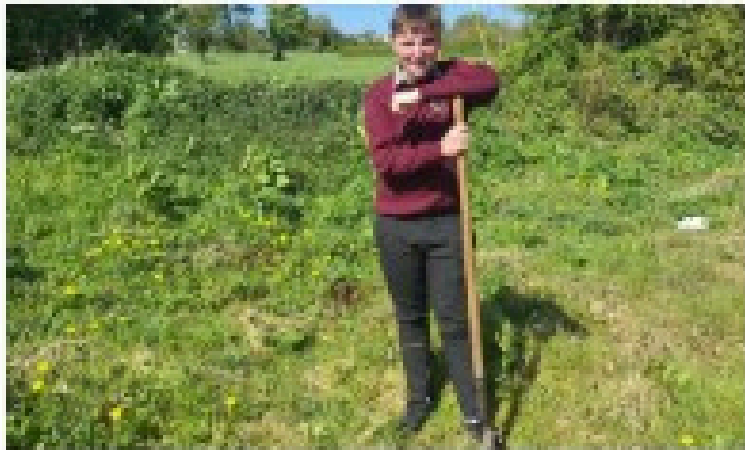
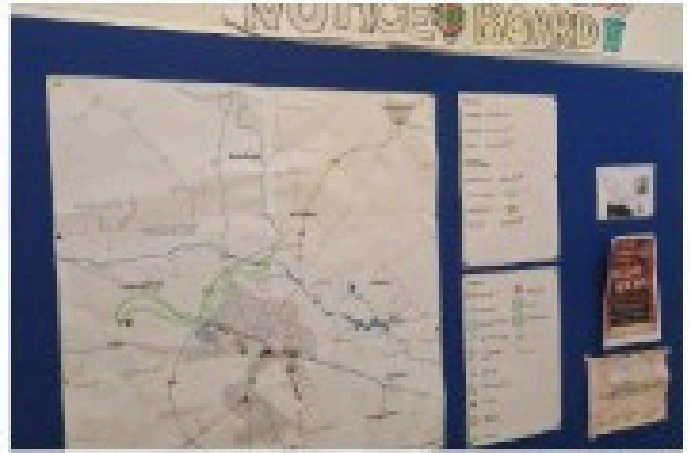
We also organised a bicycle repair workshop, which gave students practical skills and encouraged the use of bicycles as a sustainable mode of transport. In collaboration with the local primary school, we are currently hosting a poster competition focused on the issue of engine idling outside schools. Through this campaign, we hope to reduce the number of cars parked outside the school with engines left running.

On our Green Schools notice board, committee members created a map of Kells highlighting safe walking routes around the town. This resource aims to encourage students and families to consider walking to school where possible.

Alongside our new Travel Flag work, we continue to maintain the high standards required for our existing Green Flags. Committee members regularly carry out schoolyard litter picks and help promote good environmental practices throughout the school.

This year, the school also received ESD development funding, which allowed us to purchase new recycling bins for the school corridors to collect bottles and cans. In addition, we were successful in receiving funding from the Safe Routes to School Programme to install a new bicycle rack during the summer months. We are very proud of the work completed so far and look forward to continuing our efforts throughout the year.

Green Schools Committee



Native Tree Planting

This term, our Transition Year students rolled up their sleeves and got involved in an exciting environmental project by planting a variety of native Irish trees around the school grounds. Among the trees planted were silver birch, rowan, hawthorn, holly, oak, and alder – all species that are native to Ireland and play an important role in supporting local wildlife.

The project is helping to develop biodiversity within our school environment. Native trees provide food and shelter for birds, bees, butterflies, and many other insects and animals. Hawthorn and rowan trees produce berries for birds, while oak trees support hundreds of species of insects. By planting a diverse range of trees, students are creating habitats that will encourage more wildlife to thrive on our school grounds.

This initiative is also an important long-term investment in the environment of both our school and the wider community. As the trees grow, they will improve air quality, absorb carbon dioxide, provide shade, and create a greener and more sustainable environment for future generations of students. The project highlights the importance of caring for our natural world and demonstrates how small actions today can have a lasting positive impact in the years ahead.

Well done to all of our Transition Year students for their hard work and commitment to making our school a greener place for everyone

6th and 3rd Year Ecology Adventure



Our 6th Year and 3rd Year science and biology students enjoyed a fantastic Ecology Field Study at Lullymore, Co. Kildare this term. This trip formed an important part of their exam preparation, giving students a real-world context to the ecological concepts they've been learning in class.

The day was more than just theory in action—students had the opportunity to put classroom knowledge into practical investigation. The experience was filled with hands-on learning, from observing habitats and assessing biodiversity to noting environmental changes firsthand. A scenic train ride added a relaxing backdrop to the day, providing time for reflection on their observations and upcoming assessments. To round off the excursion, the students enjoyed some fun on the Crazy Golf course, offering a lighthearted balance to an otherwise intensive day of learning.

This trip reinforced core scientific concepts while highlighting the value of teamwork, curiosity, and fieldwork in scientific inquiry. Congratulations to all the students for their enthusiasm, focus, and thoughtful contributions throughout the day.



Graduating Class of 2026



Congratulations to the Class of 2026 on their graduation from St Ciarán's on 20th May. We are immensely proud of all that our Sixth Year students have achieved during their time with us, and we are excited to see the bright futures that lie ahead for each and every one of them.



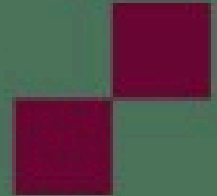
The graduation ceremony was a truly memorable occasion, filled with nostalgia, cherished memories, and plenty of laughter as students, families, and staff came together to celebrate this important milestone. It was wonderful to reflect on the friendships formed, the achievements earned, and the many experiences shared throughout their school journey.



As our graduates now begin the next chapter of their lives, we extend our very best wishes to them all. We have no doubt that they will go on to accomplish great things, and we look forward to hearing about their future successes and careers in the years to come. The entire school community wishes the Class of 2026 every happiness and success for the future.



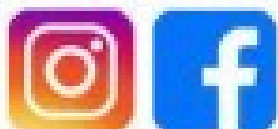
St. Ciarán's Community School
Kells, Co. MEath



Pursuing Excellence Together

Omnes Virtutem Sequentes

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