



Principal's Note by Mr. McLoughlin

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Staff,

As we come to the end of 2025, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone in our school community for another year marked by hard work, growth, and collaboration. Skerries has always been defined by its strong community spirit, and that same spirit continues to thrive in our school.

This year, our students have shown exceptional commitment across all areas of school life. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, on stage, or through the many initiatives led by students themselves, their achievements have been a credit to the school and the wider community.

I would also like to acknowledge our recent Christmas in the College event. It was wonderful to see so many families, neighbours, and friends come together, and even more inspiring to watch our talented students perform. Their creativity and confidence brought great energy to the evening, and the strong turnout from the community was greatly appreciated.

We are already looking forward to the school musical later in the spring, and you will be hearing more about this in the new year.

To parents and guardians, thank you for your continued support. Your involvement and partnership greatly strengthen the connection between home and school and play an essential role in the success of our students.

I would also like to acknowledge the important work of our Parents' Association and Board of Management. Their commitment and guidance ensure that the school continues to grow, respond to the needs of our community, and plan responsibly for the years ahead.



As Skerries continues to evolve and develop, our school remains dedicated to providing a supportive, inclusive, and forward-looking environment, for all young people in our care.

With the final day of term approaching on Friday, 19 December, I hope everyone finds time over the Christmas break to rest and enjoy time with family and friends. I wish all staff, parents, and students a safe and happy Christmas, and every good wish for the new year ahead.



Warm regards,

Kevin McLoughlin

Principal



Editor's Note **by Mr. Friel**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Newsletter Committee for their dedication and support in producing this Christmas edition of our school newsletter. Special thanks to the staff and students who contributed articles, celebrating the wonderful work and achievements across our school since September. On behalf of the Newsletter Committee, we hope you enjoy reading it!

*Thank
You!*

Holiday Helpers: Our Leaders in Action

by Ms. Russell

December has been a busy and joy-filled month for our student leaders, who have brought colour, creativity, and festive cheer to every corner of the school.

Our Prefects kicked things off with a vibrant Colours Day, fundraising for their chosen charities as students proudly wore the colours blue, purple or yellow representing causes close to their hearts. They also helped spread some holiday magic by delivering Candy Canes, and hosted Christmas in the College, adding sparkle to the celebrations.

Meanwhile, our Mentors decorated their thank you tree for Saint Vincent de Paul, to thank all those who donated. They also launched the annual Christmas Door Decorating Competition. They supported junior classes with ideas, designs and gathering supplies, helping to turn the corridors into a festive wonderland. They also lent a helping hand at Christmas in the College, ensuring the event ran smoothly.



Our Junior Class Captains began planning and decorating their doors, bringing huge energy and imagination to the competition. The 5th Year Class Captains and Vice-Captains also stepped up, offering valuable support at their Parent Teacher Meeting.

We were delighted to award certificates to a new group of TY LIFT Leaders, who will continue to inspire positivity across the school. Ms Russell also launched an exciting new initiative the TY Subject Ambassador Programme. This will be piloted in Home Economics after Christmas before expanding schoolwide, offering even more opportunities for leadership, pride, and peer role-modelling.

Well done to all our student leaders for their kindness, teamwork, and festive spirit this December.





Gratulacje Mr. Kozina by Mr. Friel

A huge congratulations to Mr. Kozina, who recently received a prestigious award from the Polish Minister of Education, Barbara Nowacka, for his work in teaching the Polish language among the Polish community in Ireland and at Skerries Community College.



Adiós Señora Doyle! by Mr. Friel

It was with a very heavy heart that we said “adios” to Ms. Doyle, back in September. After years of teaching Spanish here in SCC, she has embarked on her next journey – retirement! We wish her all the best.



St. Michael's House Christmas Party by Ms. McGonagle

On Wednesday, 17th December, our Sixth Year students proudly hosted the annual Christmas party for the students of St. Michael's House. The event took place in the school canteen and was a wonderful celebration of community and festive spirit. Over 80 Sixth Year students volunteered to welcome and entertain 15 guests from St. Michael's House. The afternoon featured lively games, including Pass the Parcel and Musical Chairs, creating an atmosphere of joy and laughter. The party concluded with a medley of Christmas songs performed by Fifth and Sixth Year music students, ensuring a memorable experience for all involved.





German Exchange

by Ms. Conway

On the 29th of November, ten TY students travelled to Frankfurt, Germany to take part in a nine-day German exchange with students from the Eduard Spranger School in Landau, in the south of Germany. During their stay, our students lived with host families and attended school alongside their exchange partners, gaining valuable insight into everyday German life and education.

The programme also included a wide range of exciting activities. Students visited the stunning city and castle of Heidelberg, took part in traditional German bread baking, and enjoyed a day trip to Strasbourg, as well as a guided tour of a bunker complex along the historic Maginot Line in France. In Landau, students climbed the cathedral bell tower, and later in the week relaxed at the local swimming complex, complete with a giant float, wave pool, and thrilling slide.



One particularly memorable experience was a visit to the Dialog Blind Museum, where students attempted to navigate complete darkness using only a white cane and their sense of hearing, offering a powerful insight into life with visual impairment. The group also enjoyed the festive atmosphere of German Christmas markets, sampling seasonal treats and taking part in the tradition of leaving shoes out to be filled with gifts by St Nikolaus.

The exchange was a highly rewarding experience, providing students with meaningful cultural experiences and the opportunity to form lasting friendships with their German hosts.



My 1st Year Journey

by Amber L.

My name is Amber and this is my First Year journey so far. The subjects I am really enjoying so far are Business and Spanish. These subjects are very new to me but I am loving them. Spanish is so fun because you get to learn a new language with your friends and it is a fun class. Business was a bit hard at the start but during the weeks I have learned more and I now understand it a lot better. My favourite thing about business is budgets.



This year we have had a lot of fun activities including The Open Night, Gaeilge 24, Intercultural Day, the Opening Ceremony, and Eurovision. My favourite activity was the Open Night it was a fun experience and it brought back flashbacks to when I was looking around the school and being so nervous to go into first year. At first coming into first year was a bit scary and intimidating. But now I have realised there is nothing to be afraid of and First Year is one of the best years.



Junior Cycle Results 2025

by Ms. McMahon

Last year's Third Years received their Junior Cycle results on the 8th of October 2025. We are extremely proud of their excellent academic achievements. These results reflect the hard work, commitment, and resilience shown by students throughout their Junior Cycle journey.

We congratulate all students on reaching this important milestone and on their individual successes. Their achievements are a credit to their dedication and effort over the past three years.

We would also like to acknowledge the support of teachers, staff, and parents, whose guidance and encouragement played a vital role throughout the Junior Cycle. Well done to all our students as they move confidently into the next stage of their education.



An Ghaeilge a Chur Chun Cinn inár Scoil

Le Coiste na Gaeilge



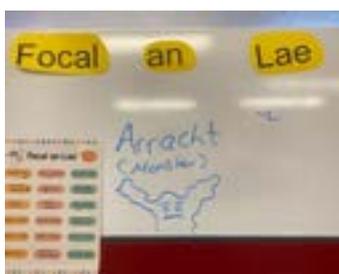
I mbliana, tá ár gCoiste na Gaeilge ag oibriú go crua chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn inár scoil. Is é ár gcuspóir ná an Ghaelbhratach a fháil dár scoil – gradam a bhronntar ar scoileanna a spreagann an Ghaeilge a úsáid ar bhonn laethúil. Bhí imeacht mór againn darbh ainm Gaeilge 24. San imeacht seo, labhair na daltaí sa chead bhliain Gaeilge ar feadh an lae. Chabhraigh sé go mór le gach duine a muinín a fheabhsú a bheith ag labhairt as Gaeilge.

Tá club lóin 'Tae agus Plé' againn, is áit í gur féidir na daltaí cupáin tae a ól agus a bheith ag cleachtadh a gcuid Gaeilge. Gach lá déanaimid 'focal an lae' agus glacaimid an rolla as Gaeilge, agus táimid ag postáil ar Instagram gach seachtain freisin! Tá a lán pleananna agus imeachtaí againn, agus táimid ar bís iad a roinnt libh.



This year, our Gaelbratach committee has been working hard to promote the Irish language throughout the school. Our goal is to earn an Irish flag - a recognition awarded to schools that actively encourage the daily use of Irish. One of our biggest achievements so far was taking part in Gaeilge 24. An event where our 1st year students were challenged to speak Irish for a full day. Everyone got involved, and it really helped everyone gain confidence *ag labhairt Gaeilge*.

Recently, we launched an exciting new lunchtime club called Tae agus Plé, where students can enjoy a cup of tea, chat with their friends and practise their Irish. On top of that, we've introduced a daily *Focal an Lae* (word of the day) and encouraged teachers to take the role as Gaeilge. We have also been busy online, sharing regular Instagram posts and reels to show our growing progress throughout the year. And we are only getting started! We have plenty more events and activities planned for the months ahead, and we can't wait to share them with the school. And we look forward to see what the rest of the year brings, as we work towards achieving our flag!





Arguably Our Best Team Yet

by Ms. Cody

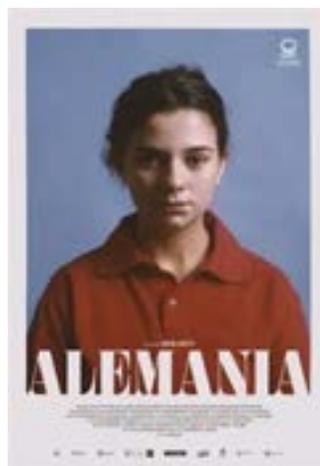
This year's Junior Debating Team is made up of six first-time debaters who have thrown themselves into the world of arguments, rebuttals, and quick thinking. With the support of Mr. Courtney, Ms. Cody, and a group of 5th-year students who previously won the DDLETB competition, the team has been steadily building confidence and skill. As part of the DDLETB league, we were delighted to host Donabate Community College, Coláiste Cois Life, and Firhouse Community College. The debates have been lively, challenging, and a great learning experience, and the team is already looking forward to what next year will bring.



MFL Cinema Trips

by Ms. Bradley

Senior MFL students enjoyed two film trips this month through the IFI Schools Programme. German 5th years visited the IFI to see *Zwei zu Eins* (Two to One), exploring the impact of German reunification on everyday life. Spanish 5th years travelled to Droichead Arts Centre, Drogheda, to watch *Alemania*, a film following a young Argentine woman seeking new opportunities through a German exchange. Both trips sparked discussion and brought language and culture to life beyond the classroom.



Christmas Carols at The Lark

by Ms. McMahon

On December 16th, a group of students took part in busking at the Balbriggan Christmas Market in the Lark.

Students performed a range of songs and helped create a festive atmosphere for passers-by, many of whom stopped to listen and show their support. A number of students sang solo performances, showing great confidence while performing in a busy public space.

It was a great opportunity to share music with the wider community and represent our school in a positive way. The experience was enjoyable, rewarding, and a lovely way to spread some Christmas cheer.



Wellbeing Week

by Ms. McMahon



Wellbeing Week took place from October 5th, celebrating positivity, connection, and self-care across the school. Each day began with uplifting music on the intercom, and students took part in compliment circles during tutor time.

A new Wellbeing Display was launched by Ms. Spelman and our Wellbeing Ambassadors, who also shared Bí Cineálta tips on the noticeboard. Highlights included positive affirmations at the entrance, Drop Everything for Wellbeing mindfulness activities, and "Orange You Glad It's Thursday?" where we provided students with a healthy breakfast of fruit on their way into school.

The week concluded with a whole-school 'Walk for Wellbeing', providing a positive and active finish.

Student Council

by Ms. Lynch

This year, the Student Council of Skerries Community College played an active and important role in representing the voice of the student body. Council members regularly shared their thoughts and feedback on a range of school policies, ensuring that students' views were listened to and considered in discussions with school management. They also raised and addressed key issues affecting students, working collaboratively to help improve school life for everyone.

In addition to their representative role, the Student Council gave generously of their time by supporting school events, including helping out at the SCC Santa's Grotto, where they contributed to creating a welcoming and festive experience for the whole school community. Their commitment, responsibility, and teamwork throughout the year to date have made a valuable contribution to Skerries Community College.



Student Council Members 2025/26:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1 st Year | Ruby Deegan and Willow Monaghan. |
| 2 nd Year | Zak Turner and Caolán Griffith. |
| 3 rd Year | Blake Kavanagh and Matteo Tersigni. |
| TY | Catherine Russel and Alanna Griffith. |
| 5 th Year | Daniel Chambers and Rory Walsh. |
| 6 th | Peter Stead, Noah Morgan, Jessica Doyle, Ava O'Connor, Michelle Fallon. |

A Bright Beginning: First Year Welcoming Ceremony 2025

by Mr. Barry

On Thursday, 2 October 2025, the canteen at Skerries Community College was transformed into a warm, vibrant celebration space as students, staff, and families gathered for the annual First Year Welcoming Ceremony. From heartfelt speeches to inspiring performances, the afternoon marked an exciting new chapter for the Class of 2025!

A looping video montage of class and student photos set the tone as First Year students entered with their tutors and took their seats. The Deputy Principal, Mr Barry formally opened the ceremony, extending a warm welcome to students and their proud families. Our newly appointed Class Captains, Koko, Moses, Caoilinn, James, Mya, and Ruby then stepped into their role as MCs for the event.

One of the afternoon's most meaningful moments was the unveiling of the Year Group Artwork, designed by Ms Loughran. Each student contributed their fingerprint to the piece, symbolising individuality and unity. The artwork is now displayed in the college as a lasting reminder of this milestone year.



Our Chaplain Ms Kilcullen offered an Opening Thought, encouraging students to approach the coming years with courage and curiosity. This was followed by a multilingual reflection from students Ruby Deegan, Willow Monaghan, and Claire Heyenga, celebrating the diversity and vibrant spirit of the school community.

The Ceremony of Light brought a calm, reflective moment to the afternoon. Representatives from each First Year class lit a candle while tutors shared intentions for the year ahead hopes of friendship, unity, resilience, growth, and possibility. Soft piano music by Ms McGonagle accompanied the ceremony of light.

Mentors Orla de Freitas and Tara O'Brien shared their experiences, reflecting on life as a First Year student and on supporting younger peers in their new school environment. Year Head Ms Murphy introduced representatives from various subjects, each giving a short insight into what they've discovered and enjoyed so far. Their enthusiasm reflected the curiosity and energy that define the new year group.

Cont'd

Principal Mr McLoughlin addressed the assembly, congratulating the First Years on their start and acknowledging the excellent results from the Leaving Certificate Class of 2025. His message encouraged students to embrace challenges, make connections, and enjoy the journey ahead.

Before leaving for refreshments, the MCs thanked on behalf of the year group, their teachers, tutors, mentors, and the Year Head for guiding them through the transition from primary school. Music played a standout role throughout the afternoon.

The ceremony began on a high note with a soulful performance by Ms McNally (vocals) and Ms Carr (piano). Student Performances by Taylor Bailey and Céilí Delaney delighted the audience with their rendition of "You've Got a Friend in Me." Pianist En Yi Gu from 1 Joyce captivated listeners with a classical piece. Closing the ceremony, Ms Madigan performed Tom McElvogue's Reel on the harp, an uplifting finish that had the audience smiling and tapping their feet along.

The 2025 Welcoming Ceremony was a joyful celebration of talent, diversity, and new beginnings. With music, reflection, and plenty of smiles, it set the perfect tone for an exciting year ahead at Skerries Community College for our First Year students.

And the Star Baker is...

by Ms. Cody

Our school hosted its first-ever Teachers' Bake Off, with eight enthusiastic staff pairs competing in whisk-to-whisk battles. The SLT judged creativity and taste, crowning Mr. McGrane and Mr. Fahey winners for mastering the technical challenge. The event mixed fun, teamwork, and plenty of delicious moments for everyone who took part.



Coding Trip

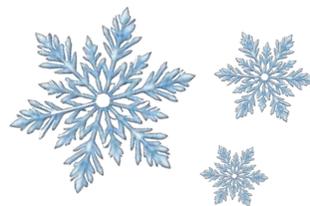
by Bethany R.H.



On the 2nd of December some other students and I went on a trip, led by Mr. Courtney, to Griffith College. This trip was about coding. The day started with us learning about binary coding. We then went on a tour of Griffith College. After this we then made keychains which are inscribed with binary code and got pizza. Overall, it was a very fun and informative experience.

Gaeilge 24

le Ms. Russell



Gaeilge 24 was celebrated with great excitement this year as all first-year students took part in a lively, Irish-filled day designed to show that Gaeilge is not just something we learn in class, but something we live.

The entire event was organised by one of our Múinteoirí Gaeilge Ms Russell, who through craic agus ceol created a truly memorable experience.

The day kicked off with the ever-popular Biongó Lócó as Gaeilge, brilliantly hosted by Ms McMahon. Students listened carefully to Irish numbers and phrases, joining in with enthusiasm and plenty of laughter. Adding to the buzz, Ms Russell also took on the role of DJ, keeping the energy high and the atmosphere buzzing throughout the event.

There was no shortage of treats either, as students enjoyed popcorn while watching Sponge Bob SquarePants as Gaeilge. Seeing familiar characters speak Irish helped bring the language to life and reminded students that Gaeilge can be fun, modern and part of everyday entertainment.

The corridors were filled with spraoi agus craic as students confidently used Irish words and phrases throughout the day. Most importantly, the event had a meaningful purpose, raising funds for Conradh na Gaeilge, an organisation dedicated to promoting and protecting the Irish language across Ireland.

Gaeilge 24 was a fantastic success, leaving first-year students with smiles on their faces, a boost in confidence, and a renewed love for our national language. A big maith sibh to everyone involved for making Gaeilge come alive in such a fun and engaging way!



Sharing Light and Kindness (Chaplaincy Message)

by Ms. Kilcullen

As we wrap up the term, it's been lovely to look back on everything that's happened in Chaplaincy. With the Student Chaplaincy Team beside me, we've tried to bring small moments of care and connection into school life.

This term we got stuck into the Team Hope shoeboxes, raised over €1,400 for Concern Worldwide, created our November Remember spaces and updated our noticeboards, and helped bring a bit of magic to the St Michael's House Christmas Party. The students have been fantastic throughout -always willing to show up, lend a hand, and add their own spark to each project.

This season, whether we celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, or simply take time for rest, we are invited to notice the small acts of care that brighten winter days. Our Chaplaincy Team have shown how these simple gestures can strengthen our Community.

A Christmas Blessing

*May this Christmas season bring light to your days,
calm to your heart, and kindness to your home.*

*May you find moments of rest amid the busyness,
and moments of joy that catch you by surprise.*

*And may our school community continue to be a place
where hope grows, compassion strengthens us, and
every person feels held in the warmth of belonging.*

*Wishing all students, staff and families a gentle,
hopeful and restful holiday season.*



December Library News

by Ms. Spelman

December has been a very busy month in the library. The students have enjoyed all the lunchtime clubs and class visits and events.

Christmas Quiz

Students enjoyed a special Christmas Quiz and well done to the winners! A huge thank you to Lucy, Katie and Molly. for helping correct the answers as part of their Gaisce library work experience.



Chess Tournament

The Chess Tournament continued and all the chess players enjoyed each game. Congratulations to the winners, to Yuri who came 1st, Stan who came 2nd and Hugh who came in 3rd.



The library looks forward to an eventful 2026 Happy Christmas to all!

The most important meal of the day

by Ms. Cody

Breakfast Club is back in Room 40, serving up a great start to the day from 8:05 every morning. It's a cosy spot to wake up, grab a bite, and toast to the day ahead. Fridays are the clear favourite—Waffle Day—making the week finish on a sweet note.



Science Week

by The Science Department

This year Science Week highlighted the importance of science in an engaging and enjoyable way. Throughout the week, students had the opportunity to explore scientific ideas outside the classroom and take part in a range of activities designed to promote curiosity, teamwork, and learning.



Lunchtime activities were a huge hit this year. On Monday there were some explosive demonstrations in the lab. On Tuesday student enjoyed an episode of The Big Bang Theory. The hotly anticipated Paper Airplane Competition reached record levels of “scientific” innovation on Wednesday, which saw some planes soar majestically, while others nose-dived dramatically, but all were launched with great confidence. Then in the library on Thursday, brains were put to the test with a fast-paced Science Quiz for all.

Throughout the week first years raced around the school on a science-themed scavenger hunt, discovering clues, learning new facts, and occasionally getting lost along the way. Second years brought the laughs by sharing their favourite science jokes. And third year Guidance classes showed off their knowledge in a quiz hosted by TY Biology students, who took their role as quizmasters very seriously. Questions were asked, answers were debated, and competitive spirit was alive and well.

On Friday to round it up, some of our teachers made science-themed treats for the staff. It was a fun and thoughtful way to celebrate the week.

Overall, Science Week was a brilliant mix of learning and laughter, reminding everyone that science is exciting, inspiring, and something to be celebrated.

End of Term Awards

by Mr. Mahon



On 16th December the college hosted its End of Term Awards ceremony for the first term from September to December. Awards were presented for the following categories: Academic Achievement; Improvement; Extra-Curricular and Sports; and Ethos. Mr Smith also helped with Attendance awards for each year group.

Students were recognised for their contributions in the classroom through their learning as well as outside the classroom representing the college through sports, debating, choir and many, many other activities.



Thanks to everyone who made the day a success especially Mr Barry, Year Heads, Tutors, Kevin Russell and the TY PR team. Congratulations to the all students who received awards. We look forward to recognising the achievements of our students in the future.



Intercultural Day

by Ms. Luongo

Skerries Community College was bursting with colour, culture and creativity on the 6th of November as we celebrated our annual Intercultural Day. This fantastic, student-led event showcased the hard work and enthusiasm of our Transition Year students, who created vibrant stalls representing countries from across the globe — from America and Europe to India, Australia and Africa.



Each stall offered something unique, with delicious traditional food, eye-catching national costumes and fun interactive games. Visitors could try origami, have their names written in Japanese, and discover fascinating facts about different cultures along the way.

Our junior members of the Student Council took their role very seriously as the official jury. After much deliberation, the Overall Winner prize was awarded to India, represented by Aoibhe Parkinson, Holly Maxwell, Chloe Burgess, Leah Fogarty, Martha Caden, Nadia Sherry and Amber McCarthy-Brain, who impressed everyone with their creativity, delicious food and stunning decorations.

The Best Decoration award went to Japan, thanks to the beautifully detailed stall created by James D'Souza, Sadhbh Kenny and Alisa Terlingo. The Best Runner-Up prize was awarded to Cameroon, represented by Keren Ndjatang and Gráinne Diamond Ebs, whose stall stood out for its vibrant colours, amazing costumes, delicious food and contagious music.

Teachers visiting the stalls with first and second years also cast their votes, with additional prizes awarded to Pakistan, America, Brazil, Germany, Thailand and South Africa for their fantastic displays.

The celebrations ended on a high as first years showed off their best dance moves with our talented Gráinne and Kerel. It was a joyful multicultural celebration that we hope students and staff will remember for a long time to come.



Healthy Heart Week

by Ms. O'Brien , Ms. Kilcullen, Mr. Duque and Ms. O'Herlih

This year's Healthy Heart Week had a strong focus on the effects of vaping. We wanted to ensure the message was heard loud and clear: we care, and your heart is worth protecting. A poster was displayed throughout the college, outlining the harmful effects of vaping and encouraging students to think twice about its impact on their health.

Education was at the heart of the week, with 5th years receiving an informative talk on the impact vaping can have on heart health. This tied in closely with recent HSE survey findings, which revealed that 1 in 5 young people aged 15–18 vape in Ireland—a jaw dropping statistic.

Our 6th years got a double lesson in looking after their hearts, learning about vaping risks and refreshing their CPR skills. Throughout the week, cardiac screening was carried out, with 130 students participating. This screening could be lifesaving, and we wanted to ensure all our students had the opportunity to take part, while hoping that all results will be positive.

Teachers were encouraged throughout the week to discuss vaping with their classes through videos, debates, or answering questions. Open dialogue is important in educating students, helping them make informed decisions about their health.

On Friday, staff were rewarded for their support with some healthy treats, while also helping to raise funds for the Irish Heart Foundation.

Healthy Heart Week reminded everyone that protecting our hearts is important, and that small choices today can make a big difference for tomorrow.



MFL Week & European Day of Languages

by Ms. Bradley

Skerries Community College recently celebrated Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) Week, coinciding with the European Day of Languages, in a vibrant showcase of linguistic and cultural diversity across the school.

Throughout the week, students engaged enthusiastically with languages both inside and outside the classroom. Lunchtime quizzes organised by the Spanish, French and German departments proved particularly popular, drawing students to the library to test their language knowledge in a fun, relaxed environment. A colourful display in the front foyer further highlighted the importance of languages, featuring student-created posters centred on the theme “Your Language, Your Superpower!”, encouraging multilingualism, identity and global citizenship.

Language lessons across the week incorporated creative and interactive activities, allowing students to explore culture, music and communication in engaging ways. The celebrations culminated on Friday with a lively Eurovision-style performance involving Transition Year language groups. Students performed songs they have been learning since the start of term, showcasing confidence, collaboration and creativity. First-Year students attended as the audience and voted the French classes as overall winners, adding to the excitement and sense of occasion.

MFL Week was a fantastic celebration of languages as living, relevant skills that connect people and cultures. It highlighted the enthusiasm of students and the collaborative work of staff in promoting language learning across the school community. Well done to all students and teachers involved in making the week such a success.



TY Musical – All Shook Up

by TY Students

Our upcoming TY production of All Shook Up, taking place on the 3rd – 5th of March, is shaping up to be an exciting and creative experience for everyone involved. While the cast has been working hard on learning lines, songs, and choreography, a huge amount of work is also happening behind the scenes, led by students.

Students are taking an active role in set design, helping to plan ideas, paint backdrops, and create set pieces that will transform the stage for each scene. Others are involved in props, costumes, and technical work, learning how lighting and sound will be used to bring the show to life. These student-led roles are a vital part of the production and give students a chance to develop creativity, teamwork, and leadership skills.

As rehearsals continue, it's important to note that there will be a full Saturday rehearsal on February 28th, which is essential for all involved in the show. This will give everyone a chance to put everything together ahead of performance week.

Tickets for All Shook Up will go on sale in early January, and we encourage the school community to come along and support the students' hard work. The production promises to be a fantastic showcase of student talent, both on stage and behind the scenes, and we can't wait to share it with you.

Special thanks to our Platinum Sponsors Exam Revision, Bound Apparel, Develop Me, J Vaughan, Keys & Strings, Skerries Mills, Blend 39 & Examcraft.



Christmas in the College

by Tara O'B.



The annual Christmas in the College concert was such a fun and festive evening that really brought everyone together and raised money for St. Vincent de Paul. From the moment people started arriving, you could feel the excitement in the air; everyone was buzzing to see the performances.

The concert had something for everyone: solo songs, duets, poetry readings, and instrumental pieces. It was obvious how much time and effort went into getting ready. Between rehearsals, setting up lights and decorations, and practicing backstage, a huge amount of teamwork made it all happen. Stepping on stage and seeing everyone there was honestly magical.



My favourite part was getting to sing some of the classic Christmas songs and hearing others perform too. Everyone was so talented, and it was great to cheer each other on. The mix of music, laughter, and festive vibes made the evening really special.

It wasn't just about performing though; the night also supported SVP. With the raffle and Christmas shop, we managed to make a meaningful contribution of over €1000 while having fun. Thank you to everyone who contributed to ticket sales, and our raffle. Thank you to Olive Deli for officially sponsoring the event.

Christmas in the College was a brilliant way to finish the term. It celebrated music, creativity, and kindness, and left everyone feeling festive, happy, and ready for the holidays. Nights like this remind you why it's so great being part of our college community.



Transition Year Golf Workshop

by Kate F.



On the 4th of December the TY students took part in a golf workshop in our very own PE hall. Students helped with the workshop to make sure that it went well. There was VR golf as well as the real thing as well.



Here's a word from a few of the students that helped out.

*On the 4th of December I helped out at the golf workshop for the day. There was a golf simulator, virtual putting, VR headset, putting practice and chipping nets. Each class came down for an hour slot where they could try out the different stations. I helped out with the chipping nets and virtual putting for the majority of the day. I enjoyed helping out and getting a chance to try out the activities for myself which were good. **Martha C.***

*On Thursday, I helped out with the golf workshop. Liam from golf Ireland came into the school to introduce people to golf. I helped Liam set up the different stations. Overall, I really enjoyed this workshop, and I feel like this benefitted everyone that participated, by giving them an introduction to what golf is like. **Jamie L.***

*Hi, my name is Lucas Shannon. On Thursday, golf Ireland came into the school for the day. I was one of the helpers, and I had to go in at 8:25. There was a simulator, putting, chipping, and VR. I enjoyed it very much. Thanks very much to Golf Ireland for coming in, and thanks to the teachers. **Lucas S.***



Transition Year Ice Skating

by Kate F.



On the 3rd of December the TY students took a trip to Swords on ice to go ice skating! There were trips and falls but also fun and laughter. The ice skating lasted an hour, and everyone joined in from teachers to penguin helpers!

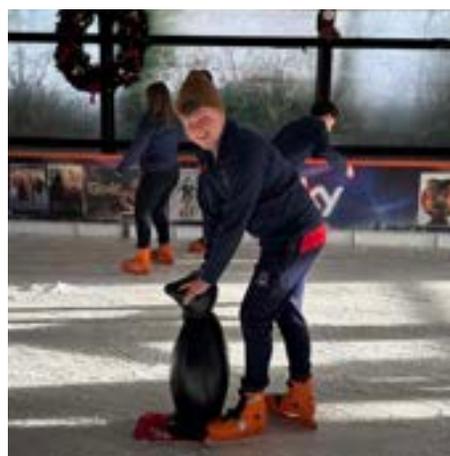
After the ice-skating students were allowed to walk around the pavilions to get lunch, have a look around, and get some sneaky Christmas shopping in.

Let's hear what the students thought.

*Hello, my name is Billy. On Wednesday the 3rd of December I went ice skating in swords I had great fun I found it was tricky at the start, but I got better and had great fun. After ice skating we went for lunch at Mc Donalds and went shopping lunch was very good and I had a great time. **Billy K.***



*Hello, my name is Louis. On Wednesday the 3rd of December we went ice skating in swords. It was a great activity with friends, and the social skills were being used. I had been ice skating before but was bad but then I went again and got good. It is a great skill to learn and will be helpful. Thanks to the school and Robbie Phelan. **Louis S.***





U19 Boys Basketball

by Mr. Friel

This term, the U19 Boys Basketball team wrapped up a very impressive season showing commitment and teamwork throughout. After countless after school trainings, they earned themselves a place in the Northside U19 Boys Basketball semi-final, where they narrowly missed out on the final by just three points against Ard Scoil La Salle. A huge thank you to head coach Ms. Cody for her dedication, and to Mr. McNicholl for his constant support. We would like to thank the PE Department, especially Mr. Connolly, and to all teachers who kindly covered classes to ensure our matches could take place.



U19 Boys Basketball Team with Coach Cody

Get'cha head in the game

by Ms. Cody

Our school rounded off the basketball season with a bang by hosting its first-ever Students vs Teachers games. Both the U16 and U19 teams took to the court against a brave squad of teachers who were more than willing to step up and get involved. The matches were competitive, full of energy, and packed with plenty of light-hearted moments. Beyond the final scores, the event highlighted the strong sense of community in our school and the importance of wellbeing through sport and shared activities. A huge thank-you to all the teachers who took part and helped make the day a memorable success for everyone



Skerries C.C. v The Australian Wanderers

by Mr. McNicholl

A great day out was had last Wednesday afternoon as over forty students tried out a new sport - Australian Rules Football. Our opponents on the day, the aptly named Australian Wanderers, were embarking on a three-week tour of Ireland and the UK, with their penultimate stop being Skerries Community College for a hybrid match featuring two quarters of Aussie Rules and two of Gaelic Football.

In preparation for the day, the boys had a number of training sessions learning the rules of AFL. Despite both junior and senior teams experiencing initial difficulties adjusting to the rules and pace of the game, they more than held their own, scoring in every quarter they played Australian Rules and at many stages dominating the Gaelic Football. Our junior side was particularly dominant over the visitors in our national code.

A number of the boys were recognised by our opponents and presented with jumpers to commend their efforts. Congratulations to Joseph Hackett - 6 Curie (Senior), Jaring Fitzgerald - 5 Picasso (Junior) and Jack O'Donoghue - 2 Pearse (Most Determined) who were all recognised by our opponents for their excellence on the day.

Overall, the boys should be proud of their efforts on the day, handling themselves with determination, respect and given the size of our opponents, courage. A massive thank you to Mr. Fahey and Mr. McGrane for their help on the day.



Boys Rugby

by Mr. Mahon and Mr. Connolly



Junior Boys

The junior boys team have represented the school proudly this year. Captained by Dan Brunnock, the boys put in a positive showing in the league. They faced strong competition from St Pats Navan, CBS Naas and Wilson's Hospital. Unfortunately, in the cup they were defeated by Ardscoil Trionóide, Athy. We look forward to the Third Years making the step up to senior in the future. A special thanks to Andy Carabini and Skerries RFC for the continued support.



Junior Boys Team

Senior Boys

Our senior cup team have had great success so far and are already looking forwards to after Christmas. Led by captain Conor O'Reilly, they will play St Andrews' College in January in the Vinnie Murray opener while they have also qualified for the McMullen Cup final, defeating St Pats Navan in the semi-final, as well as St Marys Drogheda and Dundalk Grammar along the way. They have also been competitive in the league against CBS Naas, Wilson's Hospital and St Pats, Navan. A special thanks for the continued support of Joe May, Hugo Lennox, and Skerries RFC.

We would also like to recognise the achievements of senior players Alan Higgins, James Walls, and Harvey Butler. Alan and James were called up to represent Ireland Clubs, while Harvey, Alan, and James represented their school and club proudly with the Leinster Clubs team. Well done lads. A final word for past pupil Josh Ericson who made his debut for Leinster against the Dragons in the URC.



Senior Boys Team



Ciaran and Josh



Alan, James, and Harvey

Girls GAA

by Mr. Smith, Ms. Brady and Ms. O'Herlihy

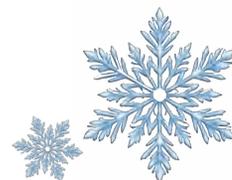
A massive cheer to all the girls who took part in GAA football this year! A record number signed up, proving your determination and commitment are bigger than ever. You showed grit, skill, and enough passion to fill Croke Park twice over. Special kudos to our 6th-year stars Cara Dillon, Lara Whelan, and Ellie Sheeran, who balanced schoolwork and football without letting either crash and burn.

We can't wait for the Aussie Rules match in January, a day of sport, laughs, and probably a few sore legs. Well done to every player - you continue to make us proud every year!



Hockey at Skerries Community College

by Ms. Morrow



It's been an outstanding season for hockey in Skerries Community College so far this year, with all three teams – the Girls Senior, Boys Senior, and Girls Junior – remaining undefeated in their Leinster leagues.

A special congratulations to Noa Mulvey, who represented Ireland at the Junior World Cup, finishing 10th overall and scoring a superb goal against South Africa. As we look ahead, we hope all teams progress from their groups into the semi-finals and, fingers crossed, the finals. Well done to all players and coaches for an incredible term!



Season's Greetings from the Parents Association

by The Parents Association Committee

As we approach the festive season, the Parents Association would like to extend our warmest wishes to all families, staff, and students for a wonderful Christmas and a happy, healthy 2026.

New Stage Curtains for our School

The PA committee is delighted to be working closely with the Senior Leadership Team on an exciting fundraising project for 2026. Together, we're raising funds to replace the existing stage curtains with brand-new curtains for our school hall. This collaborative effort will transform the student's performance space and benefit countless future productions.

The school is working hard to have the new curtains installed in time for this year's Transition Year musical, *All Shook Up*, running from 3rd to 5th March 2026. The upgraded stage will greatly enhance this production and provide lasting benefits to our entire school community for years to come. We need your help and support to make this happen.

How can you help?

School Lotto – Your ongoing support of our weekly school lotto makes a real difference. Every ticket purchased helps fund projects like this one that directly benefit our students. Sign up here to help <https://www.ourfundraiser.ie/org/skerriescc>

Quiz Night – Save the date! Join us on Friday, 27th February 2026 at the Skerries Harps Clubhouse for our popular quiz night. It's always a fantastic evening of fun, laughter, and friendly competition, all while supporting a great cause.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you in the new year!



Dr. Colman Noctor with Principal Mr. McLoughlin, Deputy Principal Mr. Barry and members of the Parent's Association at PA AGM