

## Coláiste Phádraig CBS Lucan Newsletter Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026

**Awards:** Well done to 6<sup>th</sup> yr **Joel Mananga** who won the *Mark O' Neill Student of the Month Award* for December in recognition of his excellent behaviour, good manners and pleasant demeanour in class and around the school. Joel is a mature, cheerful, friendly, co-operative and highly motivated student who he treats everyone with respect and kindness.

Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> yr **Killian Costello** who won the *Sports Star of the Month Award* in recognition of his hugely impressive displays for the school's senior hurling and Gaelic football teams.

Comhghairdeas freisin le **Jazim Khan** ón rang 1<sup>Heuston</sup> a bhuaigh an gradam *Gaeilgeoir na Míosa* do mhí na Samhna mar gheall ar an sár-iarracht a dhéanann sé an Ghaeilge a labhairt agus an sár-obair atá déanta aige sa rang Gaeilge.

The three winners each received a 20euro voucher, as well as a framed certificate. They will also receive invitations to the end of year Awards Night Ceremony in May, to further celebrate and recognise their achievements.

Well done also to the class tutor student of the month winners, who each received a 5euro voucher for the school canteen.

**Basketball:** Our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> yr basketball teams played the 2<sup>nd</sup> of their 4 group games in the East Boys A League on Tuesday against Adamstown CS. After suffering narrow defeats in their opening matches, both teams knew that nothing less than wins would be enough to give them a realistic chance of finishing in the top two.

It proved to be an incredible day of high drama, fantastic entertainment and thrilling action that will live long in the memory of those in attendance.

The 1<sup>st</sup> yr game was a high-quality affair between two very attack minded teams. There was nothing to separate the teams at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> 1-4, with the scores level at 8-8. Nathan Adjinaou (4), Billy Gogarty (2) and Alfie Donohue (2) got the team's scores. After a raft of changes in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 1-4 (as per the rules), Adamstown showed the strength of their panel as they opened up a 21-8 lead by half-time. Lucan recovered well in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 1-4 to reduce the deficit to 6 points (21-27) and set up an exciting final 1-4. Nathan (7), Billy (4) and Alfie (2) once again got the scores.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> yrs were simply outstanding in the final 1-4 as they remained calm under pressure and delivered at both ends of the court. They executed big plays at crucial moments to turn the tide in their favour and showed composure that belied their inexperience as they made smart decisions despite the scoreboard pressure exerted by their tiring opponents. Point Guard Nathan showed leadership beyond his years, managing the game brilliantly as Lucan launched their comeback in sensational style. He controlled the tempo, made smart decisions, created opportunities for his team-mates, scored some stunning baskets and handled the basketball securely late on to help his team secure a brilliant victory at the end of a breath-taking encounter.

He scored a further 8 points, bringing his personal tally to 19 for the game, while Billy (4) and Alfie (2) got the other key scores that ultimately proved decisive. This hard-earned win will give the team real confidence as they prepare for their final two group games, building momentum at the right time and giving them the belief that they can perform under pressure.

If the 1<sup>st</sup> yr match was exciting, it was eclipsed by the nerve-shredding tension of the 2<sup>nd</sup> yr match that followed.

The opening 1-4 was fairly uneventful as Lucan opened up an 8-3 lead thanks to scores from Eric Savin (4), Matthew Mackey (2) and Blake Carey (2). The 2<sup>nd</sup> 1-4 was more exciting as the team extended their lead to 22-10. Nathan Adjinaou, fresh from his MVP performance in the 1<sup>st</sup> yr game, scored two lovely baskets, as did Sam O' Brien and Cillian O' Neill, while Oisín Major got the other basket. Adamstown began their comeback in the 3<sup>rd</sup> 1-4 as they reduced the deficit to 7 points (33-26) with a strong and committed performance. Nathan (7), Abdullah Ahmad (2) and Eric (2) got the scores for the team in this 1-4.

The final 1-4 was a thrilling spectacle as both teams traded baskets under immense pressure and momentum swung back and forth. The tension became palpable in the closing minutes as the intensity increased and every possession, turnover and play carried huge significance. Adamstown actually took the lead late on as they led 42-39 with 16 seconds remaining. The Lucan players really stood up to be counted when it mattered most as Nathan incredibly equalised with a simply stunning 3 pointer to level the scores with seconds left on the clock. In the last play of the game, Lucan regained possession and Eric Savin was the hero as he scored the winning basket with a calm finish under the net.

It was a fitting conclusion to a dramatic contest. Well done to both teams on providing such drama, excitement and entertainment on what a brilliant day for the school.

**Soccer:** Our u17 Soccer team defeated Oatlands College, Mount Merrion 4-2 last Wednesday to advance to the 2<sup>nd</sup> rnd of the Leinster Junior Shield. The in-form Seán Connell (who made his senior debut for Bohemians FC last week in a pre-season friendly) scored two fine goals, while the influential Alex Kennedy also bagged a brace with two emphatic finishes. The team were a little sluggish in a below-par 1<sup>st</sup> half, but they were very impressive in a dominant 2<sup>nd</sup> half display as they stepped up a level to win in great style. They will now be away to either Christian Brothers College, Monkstown/Old Bawn CS, Tallaght in the next round.

The team were also in action on Tuesday as they faced Coláiste Pobail Setanta, Clonee in the Dublin West League 1-4 final. This time the team were superb in the 1<sup>st</sup> half as they raced into a commanding 3-0 lead by half-time thanks to two goals from Josh Kenney and another from Bobby Guy. The 2<sup>nd</sup> half was a more competitive affair but another cool finish from Bobby ensured that Clonee's brief hopes of a late revival were quickly extinguished as Lucan eased to a comfortable 4-1 victory.

Our senior team advanced to the Dublin West League Final after a hard-fought 2-0 win against Holy Family, Rathcoole last Friday. John Donohue and Matthew McEvoy scored the goals that sealed a deserved win for the team. Lucan defended superbly throughout, especially in the last 20mins or so, as Rathcoole laid siege to their goal. Although they had a lot of possession late on, most of their efforts on goal were speculative shots from distance and the Lucan backline held firm to see out the game. They will now face Castleknock CC in the Final. The teams met in the group stages in November, with Lucan winning 3-2, but Castleknock have been in great form since then, so it promises to be another tight, competitive affair between the two best teams in the region.

**School Tours:** Excitement is building as 40 senior students and 6 teachers prepare to travel to Poland next month for what promises to be a skiing trip of a lifetime. From 13–18 February 2026, our group will swap classrooms for snowy slopes, cultural experiences, and unforgettable memories in the beautiful mountain town of Krynica.

The journey will begin in Dublin, where the group will fly to south-eastern Poland before transferring by coach to Krynica, a renowned winter sports resort nestled in the Carpathian Mountains. On arrival, students and staff will settle into Hotel Zdrowie, which will be their home for the five-night stay. After a long day of travel, everyone will enjoy a well-earned evening meal and a chance to relax before the adventure truly begins.

Over the following days, students will take part in a structured ski programme at Master Ski, one of Poland's top ski centres. Each day will include professional ski lessons tailored to ability levels, ensuring that beginners gain confidence while more experienced skiers continue to develop their skills. Ski equipment and passes will be provided, allowing students to focus fully on enjoying the slopes. Lunches will be enjoyed on the mountain, adding to the authentic alpine experience.

However, this trip is about much more than skiing. A range of exciting evening and afternoon activities has been organised to give students the chance to unwind and have fun together. These include ice skating, bowling, snow tubing, and a magical sleigh ride through the winter landscape. These shared experiences are sure to strengthen friendships and create memories that will last long after the snow has melted.

Throughout the trip, students will be supported by a dedicated team of teachers and local representatives, ensuring both safety and enjoyment at all times. The balance between structured activities and relaxed social time makes this trip a fantastic opportunity for personal growth, independence, and teamwork.

On the final day, the group will travel to Kraków, one of Poland's most historic and vibrant cities. Here, students will have the chance to explore, shop, and take in the sights before heading to the airport for the journey home. It will be a fitting end to a week filled with adventure, learning, and fun.

This ski trip represents a unique opportunity for our senior students to challenge themselves, experience a new culture, and celebrate their school years together. As the countdown continues, the excitement is palpable, and there is no doubt that Poland will provide the backdrop for an unforgettable experience. We look forward to hearing all about it on their return!

Excitement is also building among our second-year students as they eagerly prepare for their upcoming school tour to Barcelona during the Easter holidays. This much-anticipated trip will see 60 students and 6 teachers travel to Spain for four action-packed days filled with culture, fun, and unforgettable experiences.

The group will be staying at the 4R Gran Regina Hotel in Salou, a fantastic resort offering excellent facilities to keep everyone active and entertained. With two outdoor swimming pools, an indoor pool, a paddle court, and a football pitch on site, students will have plenty of opportunities to stay active, socialise, and enjoy the warm Spanish climate. These facilities will ensure there is never a dull moment outside of the day trips and excursions.

One of the major highlights of the tour is sure to be a visit to Port Aventura World, one of Europe's most famous theme parks. With thrilling rides, exciting attractions, and plenty of entertainment, this day promises fun, laughter, and memories that students will be talking about long after they return home.

For our football fans, a guided tour of the new, renovated Spotify Nou Camp Stadium promises to be another standout experience (so long as the guided tours are up and running by then). Walking through one of the most iconic football stadiums in the world will be a dream come true for many of our soccer-mad students, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the home of FC Barcelona.

In addition to these headline activities, students will also take part in a range of cultural and educational experiences, allowing them to explore Spanish history, language, and way of life. The tour provides a wonderful opportunity for students to develop independence, strengthen friendships, and create lasting memories with their classmates.

Departing on Monday 30 March and returning on Thursday 2 April, this Barcelona tour promises to be an exciting, enriching, and unforgettable experience for all involved.

**Past pupil news:** We are proud to congratulate past pupil Alex D'Alba, who graduated in 2025, on receiving a prestigious academic award from Trinity College Dublin on Tuesday night. The award, a 150e voucher and a framed certificate, recognises the Highest Leaving Certificate Results in our school in 2025. Alex, who is studying Engineering at the college, got over 600 points in his exams, a remarkable achievement that reflected many years of dedication, consistency, and hard work.

The award was presented at a special ceremony held in Trinity College to celebrate the academic excellence of a select group of its new first-year undergraduate students. Being honoured in such a historic and distinguished setting made the occasion all the more memorable. The ceremony highlighted not only outstanding examination results, but also the commitment and passion for learning demonstrated by students as they transition from second-level education to university life.

This achievement is a source of great pride for our school. It reflects the Alex's personal determination and resilience, as well as the support of family, teachers, and peers throughout his secondary school journey. It also serves as an inspiration to current students, showing what can be achieved through focus, perseverance, and a genuine love of learning.

We extend our warmest congratulations to Alex and wish him every success as he continues this exciting new chapter of his life at Trinity College. Bravo, Alex! Te lo meriti!