



Christian Brothers School

MOUNTGARRETT, NEW ROSS, CO. WEXFORD

Newsletter

14th February 2025



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust



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A busy term so far in CBS New Ross!

At CBS New Ross, we take pride in fostering a vibrant, dynamic school community where students are encouraged to grow academically, socially and personally. This term has been a testament to our commitment to excellence, with a diverse range of activities and initiatives reflecting our dedication to holistic education. From literary engagement and sporting triumphs to entrepreneurial success and cultural experiences, our students continue to embody the spirit of curiosity, leadership and teamwork that defines our school's ethos and our work in bringing Edmund Rice's vision for education through the ERST charter alive.

Basketball

Our 1st and 2nd Year girls' basketball and boys' basketball teams have had an exciting and busy start to 2025. This year saw the largest number of 1st Year and 2nd Year boys and girls sign up yet and for many students it was their first time representing the school in any sport.



The girls travelled to Colaiste Abbain, Adamstown and St. Paul's, Waterford and also hosted Kennedy College and Duiske College in the local Youth Centre where they had some really exciting battles with all students seeing court time and learning loads along the way.

Both the 1st Year and 2nd Year boys teams recorded 3 out of 4 wins in their group having showcased some great Basketball. The 2nd Years have progressed out of their group on points difference and now must prepare for a quarter final in two weeks time.

Some senior basketball students have shown great leadership, taking on the coaching of these 1st Year and 2nd year teams and assisting in the officiating of matches.



Book Club: a new club in CBS New Ross!

A newly established Book Club at CBS has quickly become a sensation among First Year students. The club, under the guidance of Ms. Claire Culleton and Ms. Alanah Dobbs, offers students a space to explore new literature, genres and share ideas - all in the hopes of fostering a love for reading.

The club has been a great success so far with member numbers multiplying since the first meeting in January. The club aims to nurture a love for reading among students who are already passionate about books whilst also encouraging those new to reading to discover its joys and the many adventures a book can bring them on.

This month's book is 'Charlotte Sometimes' by Penelope Farmer. The book centres on Charlotte, a girl who discovers one morning that she has somehow travelled back 40 years. Though they never meet, Charlotte and Clare converse via journal notes in an exercise book. Every night, they switch places, alternating between 1918 and Charlotte's time. The novel is a hit so far with students who have mentioned that the book is "hard to put down"!



Students will continue to develop their critical thinking skills as they meet weekly to discuss the thrilling adventures of protagonist Charlotte, delving into themes, characters and an overall analysis of the author's magical words.

Catholic Schools Week

This year Catholic Schools Week saw our students enjoy tours of New Ross parish church, have the opportunity to make their own rosary beads, create a display of thanksgiving prayers and be encouraged by daily inspirational quotes from saints. Due to storm Eowyn, visits to the Carmelite nuns and a visit from other religious sisters from Cahir had to be postponed and will take place after the midterm break.



Thursday Jan 23rd

"It is with the smallest brushes that the artist paints the most exquisitely beautiful pictures."

St André Bessette



As part of Catholic School's Week, we also celebrated Grandparents' Day, also known as VIP Day, a special occasion where First Year students welcomed a very important person in their lives — be it a grandparent or another cherished family member or family friend.

The event took place in the Edmund Rice Room, where a wonderful atmosphere of love and gratitude filled the air. Monsignor Joe McGrath led a beautiful prayer service, setting a reflective and heartfelt tone for the gathering of more than 100 guests!



Students proudly entertained their Grandparents and VIPs with prayers, poetry, music and song, showcasing their talents and expressing their appreciation for the wisdom and support their grandparents bring to their lives. The joy on the faces of both students and their guests was truly touching.

To round off the occasion, our Transition Year students extended their hospitality by providing refreshments, ensuring that all guests felt welcomed and valued.

Grandparents' Day was a beautiful reminder of the important role grandparents and other mentors play in shaping young lives and it was a privilege to honour them in such a meaningful way.

Football

Our Senior Footballers began their campaign with a trip to Na Fianna Clonard's Club grounds in Wexford to face Selskar College in the South Leinster Senior Football Championship on the 3rd of December 2024. Our lads put in a great performance in trying conditions coming out on top with a 3-13 to 0-3 win. For some of our students this was their first time representing the CBS in Gaelic Football and they all showed great pride in the jersey.

Our next outing was an away trip to face our local rivals Adamstown in the South Leinster Semi-Final. On the day the result went against us, but the lads put in a battling performance against a strong Adamstown side. Special mention goes to Roan in TY and Finn in 5th year for their never say die attitude on the pitch. With this loss our Leinster Cup adventure came to an end. However we entered into a secondary shield competition meaning our lads would continue to play football after the Christmas break.



CBS New Ross
Senior Football Panel
Vs
Selskar College,
pictured with coaches
Mr John Deely
and
Mr Colm Browne

After the draw was made, we were pitted against the Mean Scoil Charman of Enniscorthy in the South Leinster Shield Semi-Final. Again, we would have to win away from home to have any chance of reaching the final. We travelled to Crossabeg Community Field in Wexford to face the Meanscoil (with a depleted squad owing to injury and other commitments) but our lads came out on top in an epic battle. Playing against a stiff first half breeze the lads defended resolutely keeping the halftime deficit to a minimum. A turning point in the first half came when 5th year Robbie, deputising in goal, pulled off a magnificent penalty save ensuring we kept in touch heading into the break.

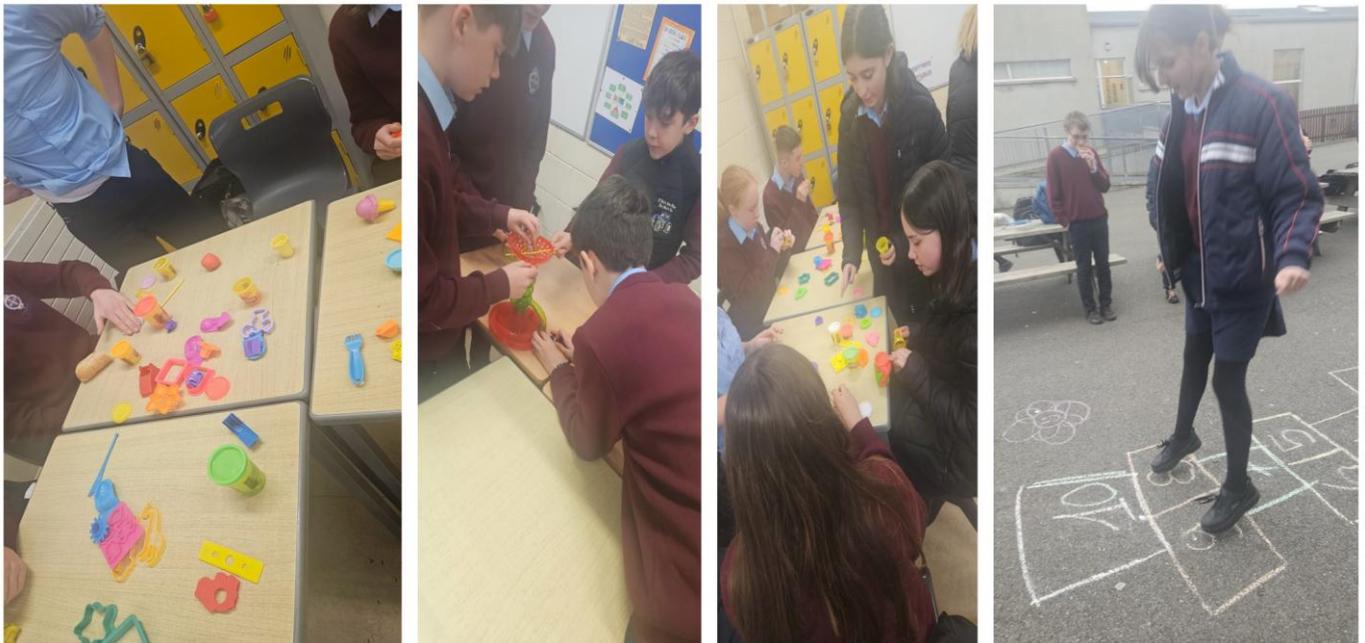
The second half saw the CBS take control with great attacking and support play. A goal from 6th Year Dylan four minutes from the final whistle sealed the win on a scoreline of 5-4 to 4-5. 6th Year Michael worked tirelessly throughout on his return from a spell on the sidelines due to injury. The lads now look forward to a Shield Final date and are putting in a great effort in training as well as representing the school in other areas of sport and co-curricular activities.

Friendlink: Building Bridges at Lunchtime led by the Amber Flag Team

Making friends can be one of the biggest challenges for students entering secondary school. This is why our Amber Flag team has launched an exciting new initiative called Friendlink, bringing together First Year and Second Year students for fun-filled lunchtime activities.

Every week, our dedicated senior student volunteers create a welcoming space where younger students can connect, laugh and form lasting friendships. Friendlink gives juniors a chance to meet people outside their regular classes in a relaxed, pressure-free environment.

The programme offers a diverse range of activities to suit every interest. Students can challenge each other to friendly competitions through board games and table quizzes, express their creativity with Play-Doh and colouring activities, or show off their sporting skills with football-themed bingo challenges. These varied activities ensure that everyone can find something they enjoy while making new connections.



The initiative not only benefits junior students but also provides valuable leadership experience for our senior Amber Flag team members. They develop organisational skills, learn to facilitate group activities, and gain a deeper understanding of the importance of mental health and social connection in our school community.



As we continue to prioritise student wellbeing and social connection, initiatives like Friendlink play a crucial role in creating a more inclusive and supportive school environment. The programme exemplifies our school's commitment to ensuring every student feels welcomed, valued and connected to their peers.

History Comes Alive: Second Years Step Back in Time at Dunbrody Famine Ship.

Our Second Year History students experienced an unforgettable journey into Ireland's past during their recent visit to the Dunbrody Famine Ship in New Ross. The authentic reproduction of an 1840s emigrant vessel provided students with a vivid glimpse into one of the most significant periods of Irish history.

The enthusiastic tour guide brought the harsh realities of the famine era to life, walking students through the cramped quarters where desperate families once spent weeks at sea, hoping for a better life in America. Students were particularly moved by the authentic recreations of the passenger berths, which helped them understand the challenging conditions faced by those who made the difficult decision to leave Ireland during the Great Hunger.



A highlight of the visit was when the group received a special gift: a duplicate of an original passenger ticket. This precious artefact helped students forge a personal connection with the past, as they learned about the individual stories of those who made the perilous journey across the Atlantic.

"Standing in the same space where families just like ours once stood really makes you think about what they went through," remarked one student. "It's one thing to read about the Famine in textbooks, but being here makes it feel so much more real."

The Dunbrody experience proved to be more than just a school trip – it was an immersive history lesson that brought the curriculum to life and helped our students understand the human story behind one of Ireland's most challenging periods. The visit not only enhanced their historical knowledge but also fostered empathy and understanding for those who faced such difficult circumstances.



As our students returned to the classroom, they carried with them a deeper appreciation for their ancestors' resilience and a more profound understanding of how the Great Famine shaped the Ireland we know today.

LCVP Students Take a Sweet Approach to Business

As part of their Link Modules course, LCVP students from CBS New Ross recently enjoyed an educational and delicious visit to The Chocolate Garden of Ireland in Carlow. Accompanied by their LCVP teacher Ms. Patricia Doran and Programme Co-ordinator Ms. Aoife Codd the students gained valuable insights into entrepreneurship, product development and the food industry. They learned about the journey of chocolate from bean to bar, explored marketing strategies, and examined business operations, all of which directly link to their Enterprise Education module. The highlight of the trip was a hands-on chocolate-making workshop, where students got creative and crafted their own sweet treats.



This visit embodied the Edmund Rice ethos of combining academic learning with real-world experiences, encouraging students to engage with ethical business practices, sustainability and innovation. The trip was not only an enjoyable and interactive learning opportunity but also a chance for students to connect classroom theory with practical business operations in a memorable and meaningful way.

Mini Company

Transition Year students have been refining their business plans as part of their Mini Company classes under the guidance of their teachers Ms. Patricia Doran and Ms. Claire Wilson, building on the valuable experience gained from our Christmas Fair. Recently, three selected teams had the exciting opportunity to present their reports before a panel of judges at the Rising Tide Business Centre in New Ross, demonstrating their creativity, problem-solving skills and entrepreneurial spirit.

This experience allowed students to reflect on the dedication and hard work they have invested in their projects over the past few months. Each group brought something unique to the table: *The Waffle Iron* delighted customers with delicious homemade waffles, offering a variety of toppings and flavours; *Paws and Beads* showcased their craftsmanship by learning to crochet and selling beautifully handmade pieces; and *Charmcraft Co.* impressed with a diverse range of creations, including crocheted designs, festive homemade snow globes and colourful loom bands.

Following the evaluations, these outstanding teams have been selected to represent our school at the County Wexford Student Enterprise Awards, taking place on March 6th at the County Hall in Wexford. We wish them the best of luck as they compete and showcase their talents on a larger stage!



Picture 1: Hazel and Paulina of Paws and Beads



Picture 2: Kacper, Leon, Laura, Hazel, Natalia, Paulina.

Recycling Magic: First-Year Students Create a Sustainable Christmas Angel

In an inspiring showcase of creativity and sustainability, a group of talented first years took first place in a secondary school competition by crafting a beautiful Christmas angel entirely from recycled materials. Zara, Amelia, Holly and Heidi came together to bring their vision to life, using a plastic bottle, old CDs, a tennis ball and scrap fabric to form the angel.



Their innovative approach to recycling highlighted the importance of reusing and repurposing materials to reduce waste. The girls' remarkable craftsmanship impressed judges and earned them top honours in the competition. Their win serves as a shining example of how sustainability and art can come together to create something magical. With their angel our students have proven that with a little creativity, anything can be transformed into a work of art — whilst also making a positive impact on the environment.

Rugby Round Up

Even though we are now in February CBS New Ross rugby can boast of a busy season so far. With training taking place every Monday after school in St. Joseph's CBS Park the foundations have been laid for super performances by a relatively young senior team.



With a busy pre-season behind them this bunch of players has improved week on week, with some notable successes. September saw a traditional tie against Newtown School in Waterford and there was much on show that day to augur well for the season. In October they entered the regional blitz to determine entry to cup or shield for the Leinster Schools knockout competitions. We took first place on the day in Tullow and qualified for the Anne McInerney Cup. We reached the semi-final where we lost narrowly on a 31-21 score line, which was in the melting pot until the last moments of the game.

Earlier we beat local school Good Counsel College 17-16 in a hugely competitive and tight match which could have gone any way. This was a hugely important rehearsal for what was to come later.



After the McInerney Cup run came to a halt we entered the Leinster TY/5th Year league and at the time of writing we travelled to Newbridge College and lost 64-24, the first game after Christmas.

We hosted Kilkenny College and lost out in the dying minutes 17-14 in a highly competitive and energy sapping game.

All bar one of the squad will be back for next season and will be joined by some useful junior players. We are very grateful to Rory Flynn for his creative and highly effective training sessions and we look forward to working with him next year.

Our junior team has had a sporadic season and will really kick off now for February/March. They performed admirably against Newtown School in a friendly. Lots of young keen players, some experienced and others who are starting from scratch, show great promise.

TY Science Trip

On Tuesday 11th February 2025 TY students from CBS New Ross were treated to an extraordinary day of science and discovery at the South East Technological University (SETU) when Dr. Clara Nellist, a particle physicist from CERN's Large Hadron Collider, delivered an engaging talk on the mysteries of the subatomic world.



The TY students, accompanied by their Year Head Ms. Butler and science teachers, Mr. Curran, and Ms. Owens, spent a full morning exploring the fascinating realm of particle physics, learning about the groundbreaking research being conducted at the world's largest particle accelerator in Geneva, Switzerland.

"It was amazing to hear about how scientists are basically discovering new particles that help explain how the universe works," said Roan, a TY student. "I never thought physics could be this interesting. Dr. Nellist explained everything in a way that actually made sense."



During her presentation, Dr. Nellist shared insights into her work at CERN and demonstrated how the Large Hadron Collider helps scientists understand the fundamental building blocks of matter. Using interactive demonstrations and real-world examples, she brought complex physics concepts to life for the enthusiastic young audience.

"The best part was when she showed us the actual data from particle collisions," explained Natalia, another student in attendance. "It's incredible to think that these tiny particles are zooming around underneath Switzerland and France at nearly the speed of light."

Dr Clara, also spoke about how the field of particle physics is ever evolving and the need for future physicists. She gave a brief summary of her qualifications and encouraged students to consider studying STEM subjects for the leaving cert and third

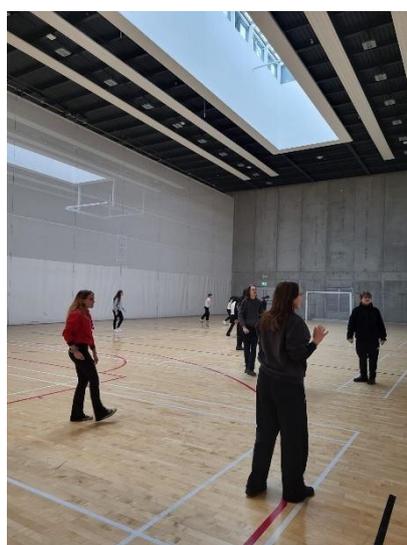
level.

The visit wasn't limited to particle physics. Following the morning's scientific exploration, students were given a comprehensive tour of SETU's state-of-the-art sports arena campus, showcasing the university's modern facilities and diverse range of educational opportunities.

"The sports facilities here are unreal," commented Abi, who plays basketball for her school team. "Getting to see both the science and sports sides of the university really opened my eyes to what college life could be like."



Students got to try out the sports facilities, comparing strength in the FHIT gym, stamina in a spin class, playing basketball, and a game of soccer on the astro turf.



The event was part of SETU's ongoing outreach programme to encourage secondary school students to pursue careers in STEM fields. Dr Gabriel Gallagher, head of the Physics Department at SETU, emphasised the importance of such visits: "Bringing world-class scientists like Dr. Nellist to interact with local students helps bridge the gap between classroom physics and real-world scientific research. We're delighted to see such enthusiasm from the students."



Soccer

At CBS we have boys' soccer teams and girls' soccer teams competing in Leinster Cup competitions and Wicklow/Wexford League. Our Senior Girls are current Leinster Champions and our Senior Boys won Division 3 of the league last year. Having first introduced girls' soccer in the school in 2019 we have had great success for such a small school winning two all Irelands and 5 Leinster Championships in the past 6 seasons. We train either at the school or in the nearby CBS park usually on Friday afternoons after school. We have more than 150 boys and girls registered to play schools soccer.



St Brigid's Day Crosses

On Tuesday 4th February 2025 CBS New Ross welcomed back Seán Ó hUiginn (retired Primary School Principal, who will shortly celebrate his 90th Birthday) to share some of the traditions of St. Brigid. He had collected rushes and string over the weekend in preparation for the morning.

Each first year class learned the art of making a St. Brigid's Cross under the careful instructions from Seán and it was lovely to see the students walk out of the room with their very own cross. We are very grateful to Seán for carrying on this tradition in the CBS New Ross for many years.



Wexford Cross Country, 15th January 2025, Ferns Centre of Excellence

On the 15th January we brought our largest ever Cross Country team to participate in the Wexford championships. Twenty-eight students took part on a lovely crisp day in races ranging from 1km to 3km.



The event took place in Ferns, having previously been in Adamstown and other venues and the students were very happy to note the lack of steep hills they had previously encountered!

All students gave a very good account of themselves, enjoyed the experience and afterwards thanked their teachers Mr. John Deely and Ms. Claire Wilson for entering the squad and looking after them for the day.

DEIS: Attendance Strategy Every Day Counts

We ran 'Motivation Monday' for the month of January. Well done to all our winners who won a €20 cinema voucher - Amelia, Kamil, Daniel, Zofia, Markuss and Gianna. These students came from a draw of everyone who was in school on time and present in all classes that Monday. Our next attendance drive will be in March.



Meitheal Leaders 2024/2025

Meitheal Leaders support the transition of students from primary to secondary school. The Meitheal Programme is an anti-bullying mentoring programme for students in secondary schools. Senior cycle students receive training to equip them with the skills to become mentors for incoming First Year students. We have nine leaders to take care of our three First Year classes.



On January 21 2025, Tina Kelly and her team with Wexford Local Development hosted over 20 schools from all over Co Wexford for the Meitheal awards in the Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy. We were entertained with music, captivated by our student leaders and inspired by guest speaker, Allen Bobinac. He told us all about how mentorship supported him to progress from homelessness to re-engaging in education and gaining full-time employment.





Pictured are (back l-r) Olivia, Ellie, Aidan, Deri, Josh and front (l-r) Ms. Margaret Rowe, Meitheal coordinator, Leah, Abbie, Ellie, Darragh and Allen Bobinac.

And now, we start all over again! We welcomed Tina Kelly to CBS on 13th February 2025 to speak to TY and 5th year students about the Meitheal Programme. Interested students will now complete an application form and attend an interview. Our new leaders will engage in 2 days of training in August.

Looking Ahead

We hope you have enjoyed reading about the many activities taking place here at CBS New Ross.

We are always grateful to receive contributions from staff and students about various events. If an activity has not been included in this edition and you would like to write a piece for the next Newsletter, we look forward to highlighting this in our next Newsletter.

The achievements and events shared here reflect the five key elements of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST) Charter which are: nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values; promoting partnership; excelling in teaching and learning; creating a caring school community; inspiring transformational leadership. Through the activities noted in this Newsletter, we continue to honour the ethos of Edmund Rice, empowering our students to make a meaningful impact in their school and beyond.

A sincere thank you to all our students and staff for their enthusiasm and dedication in making CBS New Ross such a vibrant and dynamic place of learning. We look forward to many more exciting activities after midterm!

Wishing all our staff, students, parents/guardians and Board of Management members a well-deserved and restful break.