



Christian Brothers School

MOUNTGARRETT, NEW ROSS, CO. WEXFORD

Summer Newsletter

June 2025



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust



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*Outstanding Achievement
Shane Duhig Class of 2024
Joint 1st Place in Leaving Certificate Examination 2024
Design & Communication Graphics
with his teachers
Ms. Mary O’Hanlon and Ms. Ellen McCarthy*

JFK Arboretum Hosts CBS New Ross Third Year Ecology Fieldwork

On Thursday 27th February, third-year students from CBS Secondary School New Ross ventured to the picturesque JFK Arboretum in County Wexford for a hands-on ecology fieldwork experience. Under the guidance of science teachers Mr Shane Curran and Ms Erica Owens, along with third-year head Ms Eleanor Tighe, students engaged in practical ecological studies amidst the arboretum's diverse habitats.

The fieldwork day provided students with valuable opportunities to apply classroom theories in a real-world setting, studying both flora and fauna native to the region. The JFK Arboretum, with its extensive collection of trees and plants, offered an ideal outdoor laboratory for young scientists to explore biodiversity concepts firsthand.



Pictures 1 and 2: Students using beating trays

A highlight of the expedition was spotting red squirrels in their natural habitat, allowing students to observe these native creatures that have become increasingly rare in many parts of Ireland. Beyond this exciting sighting, students documented various insect species and identified local plant varieties throughout the arboretum grounds.

Exceptional weather conditions enhanced the learning experience, with clear skies and mild temperatures creating perfect conditions for outdoor scientific investigation. Students worked diligently, collecting data and making observations that will support their understanding of ecological principles covered in the Junior Cycle Science curriculum.



Picture 3: Stunning weather conditions for a spot of soccer in JFK Arboretum

"This type of experiential learning is invaluable," noted Mr. Curran. "Students will benefit tremendously from this hands-on experience, as it brings textbook concepts to life and helps them develop important scientific field skills." The fieldwork trip represents an essential component of the school's science education program, encouraging students to become keen observers of the natural world while developing a deeper appreciation for ecological conservation and biodiversity.

CBS New Ross Students Explore Biodiversity at Secret Valley Wildlife Park

On Thursday 6th March 6th thirty six 5th year students from CBS New Ross and their teachers Ms Erica Owens and Ms Helen Morrissey, embarked on an educational ecology fieldwork trip to Secret Valley Wildlife Park in Clonroche, County Wexford. The excursion provided the Biology students with hands-on experience in ecological research methodologies while exploring the diverse habitats within the wildlife park.



Picture 1: Students work with Secret Valley staff to identify insects

The students, representing two fifth-year biology classes, utilised various scientific tools including quadrats, line transects, and pooters to conduct systematic studies of the local flora and fauna. These practical research techniques allowed them to collect and analyse data on species distribution and abundance across different ecological zones within the park.

Picture 2: Quantitative studies of flora in the area.

A highlight of the trip was an informative presentation on conservation practices, animal adaptations, and the intricate food webs that sustain the local ecosystem. This theoretical knowledge complemented their fieldwork, providing context for their observations and deepening their understanding of ecological principles.



←Picture 3: One of the parks billy goats listens intently with the students!

Picture 4: 5th years Leah and Tesia say hello to Charlotte the rat. →



The visit also featured interactive animal encounters, which proved particularly engaging for the students. They had the opportunity to handle several animals, including a friendly rat named Charlotte and a curious ferret. Students also observed more exotic species such as tarantulas, hissing cockroaches and native hedgehogs, learning about their unique characteristics and ecological roles.

"The students had a wonderful day," noted their biology teacher. "These hands-on experiences in nature are invaluable for bringing classroom concepts to life and inspiring a deeper appreciation for biodiversity and conservation."

The fieldwork trip to Secret Valley Wildlife Park serves as an essential component of the Leaving Certificate Biology curriculum, providing students with practical experience in ecological research methods while fostering an appreciation for local biodiversity and conservation efforts.

CBS New Ross Girls Shine at Carlow Camogie Blitz

Students from CBS Secondary School New Ross demonstrated exceptional skill and teamwork at the Junior Camogie Blitz held at the GAA Centre of Excellence in Fenagh, Co. Carlow on Wednesday 2nd April.

The talented group, comprising students from 1st to 3rd year, put on an impressive performance throughout the day, winning four of their five matches. Under the guidance of their dedicated coaches, Ms. Mullally and Ms. Furlong, the girls showcased remarkable determination and camogie prowess. They were also accompanied by transition year student Sarah Walsh, who took on the role of referee for several matches on the day.

The state-of-the-art facilities at the Carlow GAA Centre provided the perfect backdrop for this competitive event, where the CBS New Ross team distinguished themselves with their technical ability and sporting spirit.

This successful outing reflects the strong camogie tradition at CBS New Ross and the promising future ahead for these young athletes. The coaches expressed pride in the team's performance and their commitment to representing their school with distinction.



Photo: CBS Girls involved in the Camogie Blitz from 1st to 3rd year.

CBS New Ross Celebrates Reading Week

A Week of Literary Adventure and Imagination!

CBS New Ross transformed into a haven of literary celebration during its annual Reading Week, held from 31st March to 4th April 4th. This week was led by our DEIS Literacy Committee. It was packed with engaging activities designed to foster a love of reading among students and staff alike.

The festivities began on Monday 31st March with the first of two "Stop, Drop and Read" sessions. At precisely 9:40am, the entire school community paused their regular activities, setting aside time to immerse themselves in books of their choice. The sight of students and teachers alike engrossed in reading created a powerful atmosphere of literary appreciation throughout the school.

First-year students were treated to a special visit from a professional storyteller on Monday. The captivating session brought stories to life through animated narration, teaching students about the oral tradition of storytelling and demonstrating how words can paint vivid pictures in the mind's eye.

Throughout the week, excitement built for the grand finale on Friday, April 4th. The day began with another successful "Stop, Drop and Read" session at 9:40am, reinforcing the school's commitment to making reading a regular part of student life.



The highlight of Reading Week was undoubtedly Friday's character dress-up day. Students and staff arrived at school transformed into their favourite literary characters, from classic novels to contemporary comics. The school corridors were filled with recognizable figures from the pages of beloved books.

Picture 1: 6th year students, Grace, Esther, Jamie and Ellie in their Charlie and the Chocolate Factory inspired costumes.



Picture 2: Students celebrating dress up day

A poetry competition ran throughout the week, encouraging students to express themselves creatively through verse. The entries reflected the diverse literary interests of the student body, with poems ranging from humorous limericks to thoughtful reflections on modern life.

"Reading Week is always one of the highlights of our school calendar," commented a member of the organising committee. "Seeing students engage with books and discover new stories is incredibly rewarding. The enthusiasm shown this year was particularly impressive."

Second Year Bonding Day in CBS New Ross Builds Stronger Connections

After returning from the February mid-term break, our Second Year students were welcomed back with a special Bonding Day aimed at strengthening friendships, promoting kindness and encouraging a positive school environment.



The day was facilitated by guest speaker Sueanne O'Donnell alongside our very own teacher, Ms. Amanda Butler. Each Second Year class participated in two engaging 80-minute workshops. One session, led by Ms. Butler, focused on Anti-Bullying, encouraging students to reflect on the impact of their words and actions and to foster a culture of respect and inclusion.

In the second workshop, Sueanne guided students through a variety of important topics including building friendships, mixing well with others, developing resilience, understanding the ripple effect of our behaviour and nurturing a strong work ethic.

Both sessions offered students the chance to explore these themes in a supportive, interactive environment. The feedback from students and teachers alike was overwhelmingly positive, with many noting how valuable and enjoyable the experience was.

The Bonding Day served as a reminder that creating a caring and connected school community starts with each of us—and that small efforts can make a big difference.

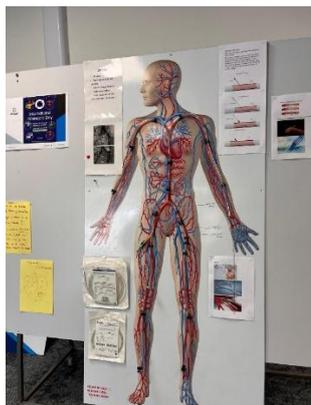
CBS Students Inspired by Visit to Integer, New Ross



On March 20th, a group of 15 enthusiastic 5th and 6th year CBS girls studying Business had the unique opportunity to visit Integer in New Ross. Accompanied by their teachers, Ms. Patricia Doran and Ms. Mary Teresa Kelly, the students were invited to take part in a special on-site function held to celebrate International Women's Day.

The event focused on *Women in Leadership* and offered students the chance to meet and engage with a selection of inspiring female leaders within the company. These leaders shared their career journeys,

experiences in the business world, and insights into what it means to be a woman in leadership today. The conversations were both encouraging and eye-opening, providing the students with real-world perspectives that extended beyond the classroom.



Following the panel discussions, the group was taken on a short but fascinating tour of the Integer site. The students were given a brief but impactful demonstration of the work carried out at the facility — most notably, how Integer manufactures guidewires that are used in life-saving medical procedures around the world.

It was particularly striking to learn that an incredible 70% of the world's guidewires are produced in New Ross. This fact left a lasting impression on the students and teachers alike, highlighting the global impact of this local business and the sense of pride it brings to the community.

The visit was not only educational but also deeply empowering, offering a powerful message about the role of women in industry and the remarkable contributions of Irish businesses to the world. A huge thank you to Integer and their team for hosting such a memorable and meaningful event.

CBS New Ross: TY on Tour

In March, Transition Year students from CBS New Ross, accompanied by Ms. Amanda Butler, Mr. Shane Curran and Programme Co-ordinator Ms. Aoife Codd, hit the road for a four-day tour of Ireland packed with outdoor adventure, cultural discovery, and unforgettable memories. From the lakes of Donegal to the streets of Belfast, it was a week of firsts, laughs, and learning far beyond the classroom walls.



The journey began bright and early on Monday, March 10th, as students departed Wexford full of excitement and anticipation. Their first major stop was at the impressive Trim Castle in County Meath, the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland. Students explored the castle grounds and learned about its fascinating history, including its starring role as a filming location for the Hollywood blockbuster Braveheart. Standing among the ancient walls brought history to life and set the tone for the days ahead.

After stretching the legs in Monaghan, the group finally arrived at Gartan Outdoor Pursuits Centre in Donegal, nestled beside a tranquil lake, just in time for a warm meal and their first group challenge.

That evening, students took part in a night-time activity deep in the woods, where their teamwork, trust and communication skills were truly put to the test. Navigating through forest trails in near-darkness, they worked together to solve problems and complete tasks, setting the tone for a week of connection, collaboration, and challenge.

Tuesday brought a full-on day of outdoor adventure - from kayaking on the lake to rock climbing, archery and team-building games - students pushed their limits in the stunning landscape of Gartan. That evening, after a busy day of activities, the group travelled into Letterkenny for an exciting session of go-karting. The competitive spirit was high as students raced around the track, adding another layer of fun and adrenaline to an already action-packed day!



Wednesday's highlight was a moving and insightful visit to Derry, including a guided tour of the Bogside and the Free Derry Museum. Students reflected on the city's complex past before heading to the awe-inspiring Giant's Causeway, where the strong winds and crashing waves added drama and excitement to the already breathtaking scenery.



That evening, the group arrived in Belfast and rounded off the day with a fun-filled visit to Lost City Crazy Golf, where students showed off their putting skills (and competitive streaks) in a vibrant, jungle-themed course.



On Thursday, students explored Belfast further, starting with a guided city tour that included a visit to the Stormont Buildings, the seat of Northern Ireland's government. As part of the tour, they also visited the famous Peace Walls, powerful reminders of Belfast's divided past and ongoing journey toward peace and reconciliation. Students also saw the historic HMS Caroline, a World War I light cruiser docked in Belfast's docks, offering a glimpse into the city's proud maritime heritage.

Afterward, the group enjoyed lunch at Victoria Square before visiting the interactive W5 Science Centre, where hands-on exhibits sparked curiosity and laughter alike. A final stop in Dublin helped recharge the batteries before heading home.

The TY on Tour 2025 was more than just a trip. It was a journey of growth, friendship and shared experience. A week where students lived out the spirit of CBS New Ross and the values of Edmund Rice through resilience, respect and a strong sense of community.

CBS New Ross visits National Concert Hall

On Tuesday 4th March, Second and Third Year Music students boarded a bus for the National Concert Hall, Dublin for the Music in the Classroom series. They were accompanied by their Music teacher, Ms Josephine Oakley as well as teachers, Ms Fionnuala Roe Foley and Mr Brian Lynch.



Seeing and hearing the RTE Symphony Orchestra was a feast for the ears. The positioning of instruments on stage and the whole range of sonorities from a live orchestra performance endeared the students and brought their classroom music

studies to life. Educational moments are woven into the experience as well. Students learn how the instruments work, how musicians rehearse and how a conductor leads.



Many of the works played were classical favourites and were presented by Jesse Grimes in an interactive presentation during the one hour performance. For Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, students were actively engaged with the idioms and motifs through movement and body percussion. Other pieces performed were the dynamic and forceful Stravinsky ballet as well as works from O Riada, Sibelius and Meredith.

Undoubtedly the highlight was the composer songwriter, Loah, who outlined the deeply emotional background to her songwriting. Audiences were captivated when she

performed two songs from her collection which bridged both her Kildare and West African heritage.



In an age of fast-paced media and instant content, the slow, deliberate beauty of a live orchestra offers something rare: patience, craftsmanship, and emotional depth. It reminds students that not all magic comes from screens—sometimes, it comes from strings, woodwinds, and a perfectly timed crescendo.

The students also enjoyed a walk in Stephen's Green, listened to the amazing buskers on Grafton St, and visited the Trinity College campus before delivering a few lively performances of their own on the bus back to New Ross.



Second and Third Year Music Students enjoying a day in Dublin

CBS New Ross Celebrates Flag Day 2025

As part of the St Patrick Festivities our school celebrated Flag Day on Wednesday 19th March 2025. The school was awash with colour as students were given the opportunity to wear their country's colours to celebrate the rich diversity of our school community.

This was a cross curricular event between our History and CSPE departments in conjunction with the Thomas Francis Meagher Foundation. Flag Day highlighted the importance of our national flag as a symbol of peace and inclusion while also highlighting respect, togetherness and pride for the rich multicultural society that we live in today.

We also held a fundraiser on the day where students raised money towards Wellbeing week, which is a highlight in our school year calendar.



Sports Against Racism Workshop: Building an Inclusive Community Together

Students from first and second year participated in a workshop facilitated by SARI (Sports Against Racism Ireland). This engaging programme harnesses the power of sport to embrace differences, celebrate diversity and promote social inclusion across Ireland.



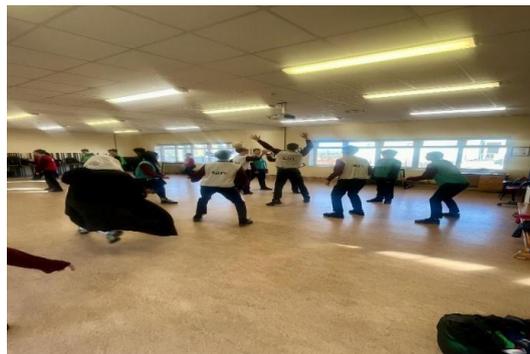
Throughout the workshop, students explored important themes such as respect, teamwork, discrimination and the value of inclusivity in sports and everyday life. We believe these discussions are vital in fostering a positive and accepting school environment.



The SARI initiative uses sporting activities as a platform to bring students together and teach valuable life lessons about acceptance and understanding. Our students engaged enthusiastically with the activities and discussions, gaining insights that extend far beyond the playing field.

Parents were encouraged to talk with their child about their experience in the workshop and the lessons they learned on the importance of unity and respect for all.

These workshops align with our school's commitment to creating an environment where all students feel valued and respected. By reinforcing these messages both at school and at home, we can work together to build a stronger, more inclusive community.



SCP Easter Provision 2025

Ms Clodagh Russell our School Completion Programme (SCP) Project Worker brought 13 excited students to Velocity in Waterford over the Easter break. These students have attended homework club all year and were treated to a day out at the virtual reality experience and McDonalds afterwards.



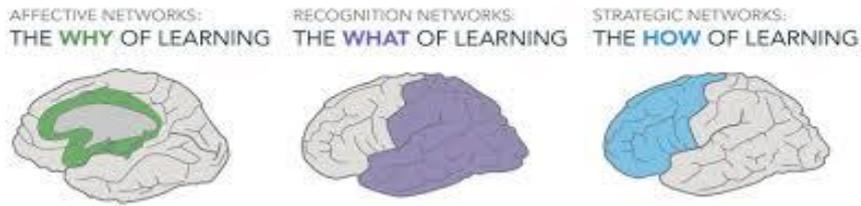
At Velocity our students could choose from over 20 different VR (virtual reality) experiences as a group ranging from easy to expert difficulty!

They also got to experience individual gaming bays with over 50 different realities.

The holiday provision programmes run by SCP offer structured fun learning experiences during school breaks to ensure continued engagement with education and help to build confidence.

CBS New Ross Leads Innovation in Learning through Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Project

CBS New Ross is proud to announce its participation in an exciting new two-year, cross-sectoral initiative aimed at enhancing teaching and learning through **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)**. The project, involving a selected group of schools across the region, is designed to support the development of inclusive, innovative educational practices that meet the diverse needs of all learners.



Aims and Vision

The UDL Schools Project seeks to empower schools to integrate UDL principles into their teaching and learning frameworks, tailoring initiatives to suit their unique school contexts. Over an 18-month training and development phase, CBS New Ross will work collaboratively with other participating schools to identify, plan, and deliver action research projects that drive innovation and improvement.

The project aligns closely with the Department of Education’s Statement of Strategy 2023-25, particularly supporting:

- Goal 1: Enabling the provision of high-quality education and enhancing the learning experience for all students.
- Goal 2: Ensuring equity of opportunity in education and supporting all learners to reach their full potential.

Project Implementation

At CBS New Ross, the project will focus on building internal leadership and teaching capacity. A group of teachers will receive specialised UDL training, equipping them to lead school-wide initiatives and model best practice for colleagues. This approach, using a strengths-based methodology, encourages the review of current effective practices and identifies areas for further innovation through a UDL lens.

Training will be delivered through evidence-based, interactive sessions, ensuring that the principles of UDL are not just learned but experienced in practice. Importantly, leadership training will form a key component of the project, embedding sustainable change and fostering a culture of inclusion, innovation, and continuous improvement.

The infographic is titled 'hi Universal Design for Learning'. It features several colorful boxes with icons and text. The boxes include: 'Why Use U.D.L.?' (Equal Opportunity, Serve the needs of all learners), 'Benefits of UDL' (Challenging & Achievable, Enhanced Curriculum, Removes Barriers, Strengths), 'UDL Principles' (Expression, Representation, Engagement), 'Collaboration' (Inclusion Classroom, Shared Vision, Set Time, Plan & Communicate, Access), 'Incorporating a UDL' (Choice Assignments, Flexible Assessment, Support, Variety of Materials, Vary Presentation), 'Lesson Planning' (Class Profile, S.M.A.R.T. Goals, Find Viable Curriculum, Variety, Reflection), and 'Classroom Examples' (Multi-sensory Lessons, Environment Flexibility, Group Work, Projects, Student Centered). At the bottom center, there is a box labeled 'U.D.L.'.

Strengthening School Communities

By participating in this project, CBS New Ross is taking a proactive role in reimagining education for the 21st century — ensuring that learning is accessible, engaging and meaningful for all students. Through collaboration with teachers, students, parents/guardians and the wider school community, the project aims to ensure that every student is supported to achieve their highest potential.

The UDL Schools Project represents a significant step forward in realising a more inclusive, equitable education system and underscores CBS New Ross's commitment to educational excellence and innovation.

"Participating in the UDL Schools Project gives us a fantastic opportunity to rethink how we meet the needs of every learner. It's about building an inclusive classroom where all students can access, engage with, and succeed in their education." Karen Murphy, CBS New Ross

"By embedding Universal Design for Learning into our everyday practice, we are ensuring that every student at CBS New Ross has the opportunity to reach their full potential, no matter how they learn best." Joanne Tynan CBS New Ross



The Home School Community Liaison (HSCL)

At the heart of community engagement in CBS New Ross is the Home School Community Liaison Coordinator, who plays a vital role in building and maintaining positive relationships between the school and the families it serves. Ms Margaret Rowe works proactively to encourage parental involvement in their children's education and to support families in overcoming barriers that may affect student attendance, participation or retention.

This role involves regular home visits, the organisation of parent workshops and courses, and the facilitation of communication between home and school. By promoting trust and collaboration, the HSCL ensures that families feel welcomed, valued, and supported as partners in their children's learning. The HSCL also liaises with external agencies when necessary to provide additional supports and resources. This holistic approach helps create a strong foundation for student success and wellbeing.



Parents' courses/classes in 2024/2025 (as part of the New Ross HSCL cluster)

- Horticulture is a very well-established group based in Catherine McAuley Junior School, New Ross. It is led by a WWETB tutor.

- Woodcarving is a very well-established group based in WWETB Adult Education Centre in New Ross. It is led by a WWETB tutor.



- English language conversation is a new group based in St. Michael's Pastoral Centre in New Ross. It is led by HSCL coordinators, on Monday mornings.
- Emotionally-Based School Avoidance Parents' Workshop: on 1st April 2025, all schools in New Ross (primary & secondary, DEIS and non-DEIS) facilitated a workshop in Brandon House Hotel for parents who were concerned about EBSA. This was led by our HSCL, Ms Margaret Rowe.
- Wellness with Amanda is back to look after our wellbeing needs. These classes will involve yoga, meditation and sound-bathing, every Wednesday based in St Michael's Pastoral Centre in New Ross.
- Community Walking Group sees a group of parents come together to enjoy the brighter days and maybe even get a little fitter, while chatting on the path! Over the next few Thursdays, this group will meet in the Town Park. The routes may vary and afterwards tea/coffee is enjoyed!

Leaving Certificate Orals 2025 – Completed!

Congratulations to all our 6th Year students who have officially completed their Leaving Cert oral examinations.

We kicked off with Jesse and Aidan who sat their French orals. Throughout the week, we had Russian, Irish, Italian and Portuguese. We finished up with Kacper, Konrad, Patryk, and Gracjan, who sat their Polish orals. Well done to each of you on your commitment and preparation.



We're incredibly proud of all our students for their hard work throughout the week.

The School Planning Group (SPG)

CBS New Ross recognises the importance of shared leadership and collaborative decision-making in school development. To this end, the School Planning Group, consisting of representatives from the teaching staff, parent body, Board of Management and student cohort, plays an integral role in shaping the strategic direction of the school.

The group meets regularly on Tuesday after school to review and inform key policies, identify priorities for school improvement and contribute to the development of initiatives that enhance the educational experience for all. This participatory approach ensures that a wide range of perspectives are considered, fostering transparency, inclusion and collective ownership of the school's mission.

The Planning Group has recently contributed to policies such as the BÍ Cineálta Policy, the Wellbeing Policy, the Assessment Policy and the Critical Incident Policy as well as participating in discussions around timetabling, incoming first years, ICT and restorative practice. *"I have been involved with many aspects of school life but have never been a member of a committee like this which includes staff, parents, students, Board of Management and now myself as a grandparent of an incoming first year. It is a very exciting group to be part of"* said Susan Synnott a member of the Board of Management.

Soccer

It has been an exciting and competitive season for the school's boys' soccer teams, with plenty of determination and talent on display across all year groups.



The **Senior team** showed impressive resilience in their opening fixture against Gaelcholáiste na Mara in Arklow. Despite trailing 3-0, they fought back in the closing stages to secure a dramatic 3-3 draw, with late goals from Dylan Lennon and Joe Mullet leading the comeback. They followed this with another draw, 1-1, against Adamstown, before facing a tough test against East Glendalough, where they were narrowly defeated.

The **Under 17s** had a mixed run of results. They were unfortunate to lose 1-0 to Ramsgrange in a closely contested match. However, they bounced back with a solid win against Selskar and a hard fought game against Adamstown., showing steady improvement and great team spirit.

The **Under 15s** delivered one of the standout performances of the season with a commanding win over Kennedy College. A superb hat-trick from Daniel Rossiter, supported by a strong team effort, secured a memorable victory and highlighted the talent emerging in this age group.

Our **First Years** also represented the school with pride. They put in a commendable effort against a strong Adamstown side, showing great promise and potential for future seasons.



First year girls' blitz:

Our First-Year girls competed in a 7-a-side blitz hosted by St. Mary's New Ross on Monday. They won their first game against Mercy Yellow with a goal from Zara Quigley, assisted by Katie Nolan. A 2-2 draw followed against Mercy Blue, with Katie scoring twice with assists from Clara and Zara. Finishing level on points with Mercy Blue, CBS narrowly missed out on the final after a penalty shootout. In the 3rd/4th place playoff, the girls finished strong with another win, thanks to a goal from Zara Quigley. A great day overall, with impressive performances throughout.

Navigating the Future

At CBS New Ross, career guidance is not just a subject—it's a cornerstone of student development. Through a diverse plan of events, workshops and open days, students are empowered to explore the wide range of career opportunities available after school, helping them make informed, confident decisions about their futures.

At CBS we include a wide variety of hands-on experiences designed to open students' eyes to the possibilities ahead.

Some highlights of our year include **Open Days** to the **University of Limerick (UL)** and **South-East Technological University (SETU)**, where students experience life on campus, interact with current students, and ask detailed questions about course content, placements, and college life.

"Visiting UL really helped me understand what college life is like. It wasn't just about the course – seeing the campus and meeting students made me feel like I could actually picture myself there." – 5th Year Student.

"Before we went to SETU, we researched the courses and had questions ready. It made the day more focused and I got real answers from tutors that you just can't find online." – 6th Year Student



WorldSkills Ireland at the RDS, a dynamic and fun day where students got hands-on with interactive demonstrations, explored skilled trades and professions, and met representatives from top apprenticeship providers and industries.

"I used to think apprenticeships were a backup option, but after the day in the RDS, I see how hands-on they can be. There are so many paths I hadn't even considered before." – Transition Year Student

Work in Wind, held in Gory, Co. Wexford, was an exciting new event showcasing careers in Ireland's growing wind energy sector.



Students met with employers like SSE, Siemens Gamesa, Enercon, and Vestas, all of whom were on hand to outline and discuss the various routes into this expanding field. Students experienced interactive activities and live demos showing them just how many roles exist — from engineering and construction to environmental science and project management.

"The live demos were good — I got to try out equipment and see how things actually work. It really made me think about going into engineering!" — 5th Year Student

"Meeting people from SSE and Enercon helped me understand what subjects I need to focus on if I want a job in this field" — TY Student

College Awareness Week is a standout initiative on the school calendar, designed to inspire and inform students about their future educational and career options. Throughout the week, CBS welcomed business owners, industry professionals, representatives from Solas – Apprenticeship Ireland, and university liaisons as well as department heads from a range of institutions. These visitors generously shared their expertise, personal journeys, and insights into various college and career pathways. Students engaged in dynamic discussions, asked thoughtful questions, and gained valuable exposure to industries and opportunities they might not have previously considered.



Students also attended the **Apprenticeship Expo at SETU Arena**, where they explored hands-on career paths in areas such as construction, engineering, IT, and hospitality. The event offered valuable face-to-face time with training providers and employers, helping students understand the practical routes into skilled careers.

“I never realised how many different apprenticeships are out there. Talking to the tradespeople and seeing the demos made it feel real—and like something I could definitely do after school.” – 6th Year Student

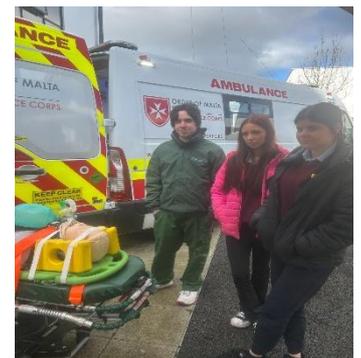


Career Night offered a whole-school experience, where employers and representatives from universities and colleges attended CBS New Ross to meet with students and parents. This evening event provided a valuable opportunity for families to explore various post-school options together, reinforcing the school's commitment to supporting informed career decisions for all.





Senior students had a recent trip to the open day at **Carlow Institute of Further Education** offering insight into practical, career-focused courses in areas such as emergency services, barbering, furniture making and woodwork, mechanics and healthcare. Students engaged with tutors, asked questions about modules and progression routes, and got a clearer picture of what life at a further education college looks like.



Overall, career guidance at CBS New Ross is built on the belief that there is no single “right” path—only the right path for each individual student. Through meaningful experiences, expert support, and plenty of inspiration, students are not just preparing for life after school—they’re getting excited for it.

CBS New Ross Promotes Inclusion and Understanding on World Autism Awareness Day

To mark World Autism Awareness Day on 2nd April, CBS New Ross proudly participated in a nationwide educational initiative organised by AsIAM, Ireland’s national Autism charity, in partnership with Microsoft Dream Space Live.

All first-year classes, accompanied by their teachers and members of the Amber Flag Committee, engaged in a live, interactive session led by Adam Harris (CEO of AsIAM), Minister Michael Moynihan (Minister of State for Special Education and Inclusion), and Michael Barrett (Microsoft DreamSpace facilitator).

The session provided students with a deeper understanding of Autism, celebrated the diversity within the Autistic community, and emphasised the importance of building inclusive and supportive school environments. Through a series of informative discussions and interactive activities, students were encouraged to challenge myths and misconceptions and to reflect on the value of neurodiversity within society.



Participation in this event reflects CBS New Ross's ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive educational environment where every student feels valued and supported. The involvement of the Amber Flag Committee, which actively promotes mental health and well-being initiatives throughout the school year, further reinforced the importance of creating a culture of acceptance and inclusion.



CBS New Ross is proud to continue its work in supporting awareness, understanding, and advocacy for all students, and to celebrate the contributions of the Autistic community within our school and beyond.

"At CBS New Ross, we are committed to building a school community where every student feels seen, heard, and valued. Events like World Autism Awareness Day help us to deepen understanding, foster inclusion, and celebrate the diversity that strengthens our school."

Karen Murphy, SENCO, CBS New Ross.

"It was great to learn more about Autism and how we can all help make our school a more welcoming place for everyone. It showed us that small changes can make a big difference."
Ruaidhri Heffernan, Amber Flag Committee Member, CBS New Ross

FriendLink

FriendLink continued this term every Thursday. Organised by the Amber Flag Committee, FriendLink is a weekly initiative designed to help Junior students make friends and for students struggling to make friends to come together in a fun, safe and welcoming environment.

Activities have ranged from classic playground games like hopscotch, to lively rounds of charades, wink wink murder and board games. These sessions not only provide entertainment but also create a space where students can relax, socialise, and get to know students outside of their own year group.

The initiative has been a great success so far, The Amber Flag Committee have shown great leadership and creativity in planning and running the sessions.

The Committee have decided going forward that it should take place twice a week as they enjoy it and feel the 1st and 2nd years benefit hugely from it!

The Amber Flag Committee are currently waiting to see if they have achieved their first Amber Flag!



Rugby Success for our Junior Girls' Team!



Our Junior Girls' Rugby squad finished their season in style at a local touch-to-tackle blitz event. The team dominated the competition, winning all their matches while showcasing impressive skill development and exceptional teamwork.

Special thanks to Katie Meeks, our Youth Development Officer, for organising a valuable tackle skills workshop led by our dedicated referees, 5th Year Students, Olan and Sam. The girls enjoyed a full day of rugby action, progressing from tag to touch to full contact matches.

Ms. Amanda Butler extends her congratulations to both the Junior and Senior teams for their outstanding efforts throughout the season and expresses sincere gratitude to Ms. Chelsea Tobin for her unwavering support. A well-deserved shout-out also goes to our Transition Year coaches - Dara, Roan and Liam - for their fantastic contribution to the programme.

Well done to all involved in making this such a successful rugby season!



Basketball

Our 2nd Years Boys Basketball Team was crowned South-East Champions in the 'D' division, following a nail biting contest against Grennan College. Both teams were evenly matched and the smallest of margins was all that separated both sides throughout. Despite falling behind in both the second and third quarters, the CBS boys dug deep in the final quarter showing great grit, determination and composure which allowed the boys to finally pull ahead and put some distance on the scoreboard between themselves and Grennan.

The CBS boys were overjoyed when the final whistle blew declaring them winners. Final score: CBS New Ross 31 - Grennan College 24. The cup was presented to worthy captain Cormac in front of a great crowd of CBS supporters, who helped encourage the boys throughout the entire game.

A great moment, for the players, coaches, school and parents and a welcome reward for the boys and their coaches who had committed so much time to training after school since September and are worthy of promotion to 'C' division next year.



CBS New Ross Honours Blessed Edmund Rice's Legacy



CBS New Ross celebrated the feast day of Blessed Edmund Rice with a series of meaningful events that brought the entire school community together to honour the founder of the Christian Brothers and reflect on his enduring legacy.

Sacred Space Dedication: At the heart of the celebration was the school's sacred space, specially dedicated to Blessed Edmund Rice.



Cemetery Visit and Wreath Laying Ceremony: In a solemn tribute, student representatives visited the local cemetery to lay a wreath at the Christian Brothers plot. The reflection, prayer and quiet moments at the graveside provided an opportunity for students to connect with the historical roots of their school and appreciate the dedication of those who carried forward Edmund Rice's vision.

Whole School Reflection: The entire school took a moment of meaningful reflection honouring the vision, dedication, and commitment of Blessed Edmund Rice. Students and staff collectively considered how they could continue his legacy in their own lives. The reflection highlighted Edmund Rice's unwavering commitment to education for the marginalised and his courage in responding to the needs of his time. Students were encouraged to identify concrete ways they might carry forward his mission through acts of service, inclusion, and compassion in their school and wider community.

ERST Zoom Commemoration: The celebration culminated with the whole school joining a special Zoom event organised by Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST). This virtual gathering connected CBS New Ross with other Edmund Rice schools nationwide, creating a sense of solidarity across the broader Edmund Rice education community.

The feast day celebrations served not only to honour the past but also to inspire students and staff to carry forward Edmund Rice's values of faith, compassion and service to others in their own lives and communities.

South Leinster Track and Field Athletics, SETU, Carlow 1st May 2025

In glorious sunshine, 33 students travelled to Carlow with their teachers Mr Deely and Ms Culleton to compete against schools from all across south Leinster in events ranging from sprints, middle distance running, long distance running, long jump, high jump, shot putt, discuss and hurdles. All students performed to their very best and had a very enjoyable day.



Wellbeing Week: A Celebration Of Mind, Body and Spirit



CBS New Ross celebrates 6th annual well-being week. A Wonderful Week of Fun, Relaxation, and Personal Growth!

Wellbeing Week featured an exciting array of activities that were enthusiastically embraced by students and staff alike:

Monday: Animal Therapy: Petting Zoo Visit

Students enjoyed a special visit from a Nore Valley Petting Zoo, which brought a variety of friendly animals to our campus. The smiles and laughter that filled the area were testament to how effective animal interactions can be in reducing stress and increasing happiness.

Tuesday: Get Moving: Zumba Dance Class



Our Zumba sessions were a huge hit! Led by professional instructors, these high-energy dance sessions got hearts pumping and endorphins flowing. It was wonderful to see students of all abilities joining in and enjoying the experience.

Wednesday: Hair and Makeup Workshops

The creative workshops exploring self-expression through personal style were extremely popular. Professional stylists shared tips and techniques while discussing how our outward appearance can reflect and boost our inner confidence. Many students discovered new talents and interests during these sessions.



Thursday: Building Strength: Resilience Talk

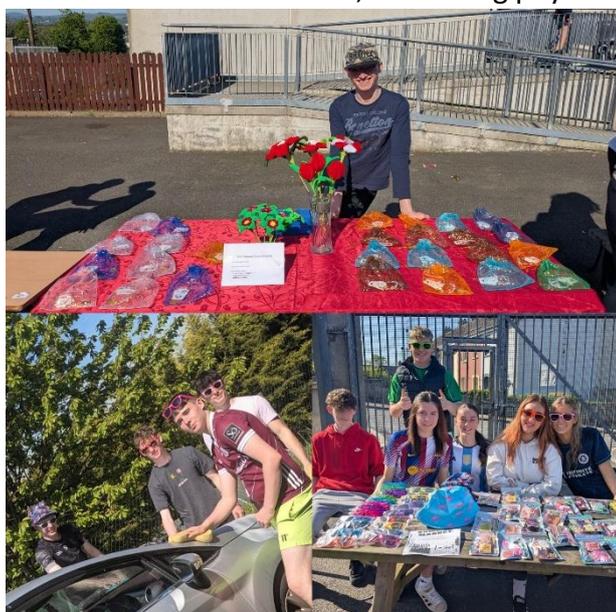


Students were captivated by our guest speaker: David Power former manager for Tipperary Gaelic football team. Who shared valuable insights on developing mental toughness, coping with challenges, and bouncing back from setbacks. The question-and-answer sessions that followed demonstrated just how engaged our students were with these important topics.

Fun and Fitness: Bouncy Castle Obstacle Course



The inflatable obstacle course proved to be one of the week's highlights! Students challenged themselves and each other, combining physical exercise with plenty of laughter.



Also on Thursday TYs showcased their **mini-company** products at the Wellbeing week Market. Some fantastic products on sale.

Thursday: Exercise with English



TY student Roan English took on the role of fitness instructor, leading classes with 40 students at a time in a challenging but fun workout. They took to the yard outside to get the best of the good weather while working out. This was a huge success and Roan really rose to the occasion in leading his fellow peers in this exciting workout. Roan is a rugby star and definitely one to watch for the future.

Friday: Whole School Walk & 'Bring Your Dog to School' Day

To round off Wellbeing Week, students and staff enjoyed a refreshing Whole School Walk, embracing the outdoors and the benefits of physical activity together. Adding to the excitement, it was also "Bring Your Dog to School Day,"

where several teachers introduced their furry companions to the school community. The dogs brought smiles, sparked conversations, and created a warm, joyful atmosphere—highlighting the positive impact animals can have on mental wellbeing. It was a memorable end to a week dedicated to health, happiness, and connection.

Supporting Others: Irish Cancer Society Charity Events



Wellbeing Week wasn't just about taking care of ourselves — it was also about supporting others. Our charity activities for the Irish Cancer Society were a tremendous success.

Students enthusiastically participated in our "Splash the Teachers" event, where they had the opportunity to soak their favourite teachers with water balloons and buckets. The laughter was contagious, and teachers were great sports for this worthy cause. The event raised over €500 for cancer research and support services.

Why Wellbeing Matters

At CBS New Ross, we believe that academic success goes hand-in-hand with physical and mental wellbeing. This special week allowed us to highlight the importance of self-care practices and provide students with tools they can use throughout their lives.

Looking Forward: Given the overwhelmingly positive response to Wellbeing Week, we are already planning similar events for the next year's week. The valuable lessons learned about self-care and mental health will continue to be incorporated into our school culture.

Mr Curran and Ms Whelan would like to thank everyone who helped organise and run this wonderful week, including our providers, staff volunteers and the student wellbeing stewards who supported.

Darkness into Light 2025 – Walking Together for Hope

Our school community came together in the early hours of Saturday morning 10th May to take part in the annual *Darkness Into Light* walk, a powerful event that raises awareness and funds for suicide prevention and mental health services through Pieta House.



Led by Ms. Amanda Butler and our dedicated team of Transition Year student leaders, the school played a special role in setting the atmosphere for the event. Along the route, the TY students placed battery-powered lights to safely guide walkers through the darkness. They also created and laid out beautiful hand-painted stones with words of hope, encouragement and positivity – small but meaningful reminders that even in the darkest times, there is light.

Following the walk, all participants gathered back in CBS, where the school hosted a warm and welcoming reception. Tea, coffee, fruit and biscuits were served, creating a space for conversation and community spirit after the reflective journey. We were honoured to be joined by Wexford TD George Lawlor, who took the time to speak with walkers and share in the spirit of the morning.

We are incredibly proud of the leadership shown by our TY students and grateful to everyone who participated, donated or supported this year's Darkness Into Light event. Together, we continue to shine a light in the darkness and stand with all those impacted by suicide and mental health challenges.

Bishop Ger Nash visits CBS New Ross and celebrates Blessed Edmund Rice

On Friday 10th May CBS New Ross was honoured to welcome Bishop Ger Nash of the Diocese of Ferns as part of our celebrations for Edmund Rice Day.

Bishop Nash began his visit by meeting with students who are part of our School Planning Group, which includes representatives from students, staff and parents working together to shape the future of our school. He also spent time with our Meitheal Leaders, the team of senior students who provide support and leadership for our First Years, helping them to settle into life in CBS New Ross.

Bishop Nash then visited the staff room to meet and chat informally with our staff before engaging in a lively Q&A session with our 6th Year students. The students asked a wide range of thoughtful and challenging questions, and Bishop Nash spoke openly and honestly, offering words of encouragement and insight. He took the opportunity to explain what "synodality" means – walking together, listening to all voices and working as a community to shape the future. He likened this to the work of our School Planning Group, where students, staff and parents come together to share responsibility and leadership in building the life of our school.

A highlight of the day was when Bishop Nash joined us outside to raise our school flag, a moment made extra special as we marked Blessed Edmund Rice Day. Bishop Nash spoke beautifully about Edmund Rice, describing him as a man of vision and compassion who saw education as a powerful way to transform lives and build a better society.



Later, Bishop Nash spent time with our 5th Year students, again showing great interest in their experiences and hopes for the future. Before leaving, he returned to the staff room to meet more members of our school community.

Throughout his visit, Bishop Nash was approachable, warm and genuinely interested in meeting people. His presence made a real impact on our school, reminding us of the importance of faith, community and the values that continue to inspire us as a school in the Edmund Rice tradition.



Senior Footballers crowned South Leinster League Champions

Congratulations to our Senior Football team who claimed victory in the South Leinster League Final after a hard-fought win against Duiske College, Graiguenamanagh.

Under the guidance of coaches Mr. John Deely and Mr. Colm Browne, the team showed great determination, teamwork and skill to bring home the cup. It was a proud day for the players, their families, and the wider CBS New Ross community.

To mark the occasion, the players were welcomed back to school with a surprise Guard of Honour from staff and students, celebrating their fantastic achievement together. The celebration reflected the pride the whole school community feels in their success.

Well done to all involved—players, coaches and supporters—on bringing home the title!



Community of Practice for Student Teachers

At the heart of our commitment to supporting student teachers is our weekly Community of Practice meeting, a space where guidance, reflection and collaboration come together.

Each week, our student teachers sit down with Principal Sarah Rice, Deputy Principal Barry Fitzpatrick and Assistant Principal Amanda Butler to discuss their teaching journey so far. These sessions offer a chance



to chat through what classes they're teaching, what's going well in the classroom and what areas need improving. It's all about honest conversation and practical support.

There's also time set aside to highlight involvement in extra-curricular activities, giving student teachers the opportunity to share how they're getting involved in the wider school community, from sports coaching to helping out with clubs and events.

Every meeting wraps up with a more informal, interview-style question designed to encourage reflection and professional growth.

These weekly check-ins are just one of the ways we help ensure that student teachers feel supported, valued and part of the team here in CBS New Ross.

Awards Day 2025 – Celebrating Excellence Across Our School Community

The annual Awards Day took place on Monday 19th May 2025 in the Brandon House Hotel, bringing together students from all year groups to celebrate academic achievement, sporting success, leadership, and the embodiment of our school's core values.

A huge thank you to Mr. John Halligan and Ms. Eleanor Tighe, who coordinated the awards programme with great care and attention. The smooth running of the event on the day was ensured thanks to the organisational expertise of Ms. Amanda Butler, Ms. Mag Rowe and Mr. Jim Kavanagh.



We extend special congratulations to our three major award winners:

- Sports Person of the Year: *Ellie O'Connell* – recognised for her outstanding sporting talent and commitment.
- 6th Year Academic Award: *Niamh Doyle Maher*, our Head Girl, whose exceptional academic performance and leadership were rightly celebrated.
- The Edmund Rice Spirit Award: *Aidan Douglas*, for living out the values of compassion, service and integrity at the heart of our Edmund Rice tradition.

LCA Awards

THE LCA 1 Student of the Year Award recognises a student who has demonstrated outstanding commitment, growth and excellence throughout the 5th Year Leaving Certificate Applied programme. This was awarded to Sean Royce.

Sean Royce receiving LCA Student of The Year



TY Graduation 2025 – A Year of Growth, Experience and Leadership

Our Transition Year students marked the conclusion of a dynamic and memorable year at their Graduation Ceremony. The event reflected the breadth of experiences undertaken by the TYs and the personal growth they each achieved along the way.

The programme was led with great energy and vision by Ms. Aoife Codd TY Coordinator, along with Ms. Amanda Butler TY Year Head, whose dedication and support ensured a rich and varied TY programme. Congratulations to our two standout award winners:

- TY Leadership Award: *Hannchen Van Der Merwe*, recognised for her initiative, maturity and positive influence among her peers.
- TY Spirit Award: *Logan Van Keane*, whose enthusiasm, creativity and good humour embodied the true spirit of Transition Year.
-

We are proud of all our TY students and look forward to seeing what they go on to achieve in Senior Cycle and beyond.

6th Year Graduation Day 2025 – A Joyful Send-Off

On Thursday 22nd May 2025, the CBS New Ross community came together to celebrate the 6th Year Graduation, marking the end of an important chapter in the lives of our Class of 2025.



The day began with a relaxed and celebratory atmosphere in school. Students enjoyed tea, coffee and croissants with their teachers and classmates, followed by shirt signing and shared memories throughout the morning. A special staff-hosted BBQ at lunch time gave staff and 6th Years the chance to chat, laugh and savour their final moments together on campus.



At 2:15pm, 6th Year Students left the school through the front gates — many greeted by their parents/guardians in a beautiful echo of their very first day at CBS New Ross. It was a poignant and fitting gesture, symbolising the journey they have taken together.

Later that evening, 6th Years gathered with staff, families and friends in the church for the Graduation Ceremony with heartfelt readings, music and reflections which celebrated the students' growth, achievements and the values they carry forward. The Parents' Association warmly welcomed families to the Pastoral Centre afterwards, where light refreshments and warm conversations brought the evening to a close.

As always, the emphasis was on community, reflection and safe celebration. Students went on to enjoy their own celebrations that evening, with the encouragement to look out for one another and finish their school days with pride and responsibility.

We are deeply proud of our 6th Years — of the young adults they have become and the positive mark they've left on our school. As they move forward, we leave them with the words of Henry David Thoreau: *"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined."*

Outstanding Achievement in DGC: Joint First Place in Ireland for Shane Duhig

CBS New Ross is immensely proud to celebrate the outstanding achievement of Shane Duhig, Class of 2024, who was awarded Joint 1st Place nationally in Leaving Certificate Design and Communication Graphics (DCG). This incredible accomplishment places Shane among the very best in the country and reflects his exceptional talent, creativity and dedication.

Shane's success is a testament not only to his hard work and commitment, but also to the support and guidance of his teachers, Ms. Mary O'Hanlon and Ms. Ellen McCarthy, who nurtured his skills and passion for design throughout his time in CBS New Ross. Their expert teaching and encouragement helped Shane develop the precision, problem-solving ability and visual communication skills that DCG demands.

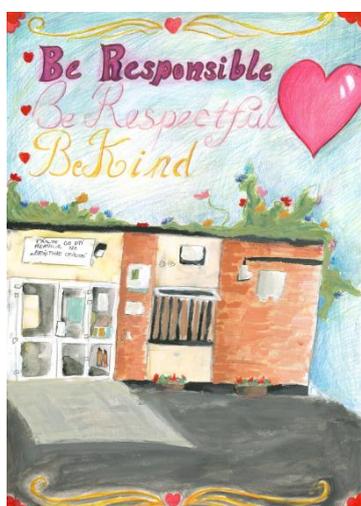
This national recognition is a source of great pride for the school community and highlights the standard of teaching and learning at CBS New Ross. Shane's achievement serves as an inspiration to all students, showing what is possible through perseverance and creativity.

We warmly congratulate Shane, Shane's family, Ms. O'Hanlon and Ms. McCarthy on this remarkable success!



Picture 2: Mr Jim Duhig (parent), Ms Eva Duhig (Parent), Ms Mary O'Hanlon (teacher), Shane Duhig Class of 2024, Joint 1st Place nationally in DCG, Ms Ellen McCarthy (teacher), Ms Sarah Rice (Principal) and Mr Barry Fitzpatrick (Deputy Principal)

Celebrating Our Updated Code of Behaviour Through Art



As part of the recent review of our Code of Behaviour, we are proud to highlight the three key values that now underpin all aspects of school life at CBS New Ross: *Responsibility, Respect and Kindness*. These words were chosen to reflect the spirit and expectations of our school community and to guide how we treat one another each day.

To help bring these values to life, a school-wide art competition was held, inviting students to creatively represent *Respect, Responsibility, and Kindness* in a visual form. The winning artwork— which will be proudly displayed throughout the school —was a collaborative effort by **George, Nathalia and Lauren**, who worked together to capture the meaning and importance of these core values through their design. Congratulations to all

three on this inspiring and thoughtful piece of work, which will serve as a daily reminder of the standards we uphold and the culture we aim to foster.

The Code of Behaviour review was led by Ms. Amanda Butler, who worked in consultation with staff, students and parents/guardians to ensure this policy reflects the evolving needs of our school community and most importantly, meaningfully reflects student voice (or opinion).

The accompanying art competition was coordinated by Ms. Teresa Murray. We thank both teachers for their encouragement of student voice.

Together, this initiative strengthens the connection between our expectations and the positive, caring environment we strive to maintain at CBS New Ross.

Living the values of the Edmund Rice Schools Charter

At CBS New Ross, every initiative we undertake — from academic excellence and pastoral care to inclusion, wellbeing, sport and social outreach — is rooted in the five key values of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust Charter: *nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and gospel-based value, promoting partnership, excelling in teaching and learning, creating a caring school community, inspiring transformational leadership.*

These values guide our mission to nurture compassionate, confident and engaged young people, inspired by the legacy of Blessed Edmund Rice. As this edition of our school's Newsletter shows, all that we do is a living expression of these values in action, as we strive together to build a school community where every student is known, supported and empowered to make a positive difference in the world.

We look forward to welcoming all our staff and students back in August. In the meantime, we wish everyone a restful and well-deserved summer break.