



Christian Brothers School

Mountgarrett, New Ross, Co. Wexford

October 2025 Newsletter



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools' Trust



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Student Council Members 2025-2026



Our New Website and Growing Social Media Presence!

We are delighted to announce the launch of our brand-new website www.cbsnewross.ie and we are thrilled with how wonderful it looks! The site showcases all that is happening in our vibrant school community and is a fantastic hub for news, updates and important information.



In addition to our website, CBS New Ross has a growing and dynamic presence on social media, with active pages on Instagram, Facebook, X and TikTok. These platforms allow us to share the daily life of our school – from classroom activities to sporting achievements, special events and student successes.

A huge thank you to Ms. Eleanor Tighe, who leads all these exciting digital initiatives. Ms Tighe is now supported by a new team including Ms Claire Wilson and Mr Shane Curran. Together, they are working tirelessly to create engaging and informative content.

FOLLOW US ON
social media

Instagram Facebook

SCAN ME

Instagram @cbsnewross

Facebook @cbsnewross

Twitter (X) @CBSNewRoss

TikTok @newrosscbs

We are also delighted to see the development of a student media team, led by 3rd year Jack O’R, who will bring student voice and creativity to our online presence.

We encourage all staff, students, parents, Board of Management, prospective families and all stakeholders to visit our new website and follow us on social media.

Your support means a lot - so remember to like and share our posts!

Exciting times ahead for CBS New Ross online!

LCA Work Experience – Learning Beyond the Classroom

As part of the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme, work experience plays a vital role in helping our students develop essential skills for life beyond school. This element of the LCA is far more than just time spent in a workplace — it's a cornerstone of the programme that connects classroom learning with the real world.

Over the course of their work placements, our LCA students gain valuable hands-on experience across a range of industries and workplaces in New Ross and the wider area. These opportunities allow them to explore potential career paths, understand the expectations of employers, and appreciate the routines and responsibilities of working life.

Just as importantly, work experience helps students to strengthen their personal and social skills — from communication and teamwork to problem-solving and time management. These are qualities that not only prepare them for employment but also help them to grow in confidence and independence.

Back in the classroom, students are encouraged to reflect on their work experience and the skills they have developed. Through discussion, written reflections and key assignments, they link their learning from the workplace to their studies, deepening their understanding and building on their personal and vocational goals. This process helps them recognise their progress and plan for future learning and career choices.



Some of our LCA students: Sean, Jack, Shaun and Jason

We are very grateful to the many local businesses and organisations who generously welcome our students each year. Their support provides an invaluable opportunity for our young people to learn, to contribute and to take the next steps toward their future goals.

The LCA work experience programme truly demonstrates learning in action — a chance for students to put theory into practice, discover their strengths and gain the essential experience that will guide them on their journey after school.

Senior Rugby Blitz



Even though it is still only a few weeks into the school year, CBS Secondary New Ross has hit the ground running at Senior level rugby.

Following a decisive victory over Colaiste Abbain recently the Senior squad competed in the Leinster Qualifying Blitz held in Tullow RFC on Thursday, 2nd October.

With five competing teams aiming for four qualifying places the pressure was on from the start.

CBS played Coláiste Bhríde in the opening encounter and it was a case of nip and tuck, with the ball being moved up and down the astro pitch with great regularity. It was all even until the very last play saw the New Ross team concede a try.

Next up was Ramsgrange Community School, a local derby game. CBS got straight down to business and scored three unanswered tries. Captain Rob along with Olan and Roan crossed the whitewash. This was a game of great endeavour and ambition, setting the tone for the remainder of the tournament.

With the intention of rewarding all members of the squad with playing time some changes were made for the third match against CBS Arklow. Scrum half Roan, deputising for Dara created mayhem around the contact zones and scored twice. Sam Flynn and Daniel Martin secured the win.



At the end of an energy sapping morning CBS concluded the proceedings with a 28-0 win over Bridgetown College. Brian and Oisín touched down as did Roan and Ruaidhri.

With three wins from four and only conceding one try in the tournament the Barrowside team now anxiously await the draw for the *Anne McInerney, Leinster Senior Cup*. In all twenty-five players, from TY to Sixth Year, got the opportunity to represent their school in a genuine squad effort. Onwards and upwards!



Soccer in CBS

Since early September on Friday afternoons after school between 40 and 60 boys and girls have been attending Soccer Training at CBS Park. Led by coaches Ms Ryan, Mr Fitzpatrick, Mr Halligan and Mr Dwyer the sessions are proving very popular with our students.

We have teams entered in competitions across all age groups this season from U14 all the way up to U19's. Matches started in October with a high scoring League victory for our U15 boys over Enniscorthy VC, followed by a defeat in The Leinster Cup for our Senior girls away to Castledermot.



In the coming weeks the Senior boys will kickstart their campaign followed by the U15 girls in what will be a busy few weeks for CBS'S Soccer players. Training takes place every Friday from 1:30-2:30 in CBS park and newcomers are always welcome.



TY's Bonding Adventure: Castles, Campfires and Carlingford

From the 14th to the 16th of October, Transition Year students embarked on their annual bonding trip, an exciting three days filled with history, adventure and teamwork.

The journey began with a stop at Trim Castle in County Meath, the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland. Students explored its impressive stone keep and learned about its fascinating history, from medieval battles to its role as a filming location for the movie *Braveheart*. The castle tour provided a wonderful opportunity to connect classroom learning with Ireland's rich medieval heritage.



Next, students travelled to the Hill of Tara, the ancient seat of the High Kings of Ireland. Standing at the top of the hill, they admired sweeping views of the surrounding countryside and visited the famous Stone of Destiny or *Lia Fáil*, where ancient kings were said to be crowned. It was a unique experience to stand on such a significant site steeped in legend and mythology.





From there, the group continued north to Carlingford Adventure Centre, their home for the next two nights. That evening, students took part in Nightline, a team-building challenge that required them to navigate an obstacle course blindfolded, relying solely on communication and trust. It was an excellent icebreaker and a memorable start to the trip.

Day two was filled with energy and excitement as students competed in laser tag, axe throwing, archery and foot golf, showing great teamwork and enthusiasm. That night, everyone gathered around the campfire to sing songs and make s'mores.



On the final day, students first took part in survivor skills, learning how to light a fire in the wilderness and completing a range of team challenges. The trip concluded with the exhilarating aerial high ropes, where students demonstrated confidence, courage and support for one another.

CBS New Ross students enjoy toasties!



The student body has recently welcomed a new revamp in the free lunch system. Featuring a new, handy sandwich toaster, students now have the option of having their sandwiches grilled by the TY volunteers who make up our lunch crew.

Open from 1:15pm to 1:30pm Monday to Thursday, any student is welcome to stop by to the Edmund Rice room and have their toasted sandwich prepared. Only plain cheese/ham and ham & cheese sandwiches may be grilled. Chicken Stuffing, egg etc will still be available for order, just not for grilling.

We asked every student to place their lunch preference order with Deputy Principal Mr Fitzpatrick and the TY team. This order can then be adjusted online through the CFM Catering Lunch management app. This helps the team to reduce the amount of food waste in the school.

We thank the TY Toasters Team for their initiative and their time in helping us achieve our goal of providing tasty, nutritious meals every day. Also, the team look forward to providing these delicious warm toasties in the coming winter months.

Outstanding CBS Performances at the Barrow Challenge

The annual Barrow Challenge is a spectacular rowing race that takes competitors along the scenic waterways from St. Mullins, Co. Carlow, to New Ross, Co. Wexford. This year's event saw 40 crews from across the country take to the river in what was a thrilling display of endurance, teamwork, and skill.

Students from CBS New Ross competed with distinction, producing outstanding performances across all categories.

- **J18 Boys:** *First home* in a remarkable 57 minutes and 30 seconds, the only crew to finish under an hour — and among the very few ever to achieve this feat in the history of the race.
- **J16 Boys:** A superb showing with a time of 1 hour, 11 minutes and 4 seconds.
- **J18 Girls:** Another excellent performance, winning their category in 1 hour, 13 minutes and 47 seconds.

CBS Crews

J18 Boys: Kevin (CBS 2025), Liam, Ben, Darragh

J16 Boys: Cormac, Jack, Michael, and from 2 other schools Aogan and Henri Roche

J18 Girls: Janey May and from another schools Niamh

Congratulations to all involved on their superb achievements and for representing CBS New Ross with such pride and excellence on the water.



Visit from George Lawlor Wexford TD

We were delighted to welcome Councillor George Lawlor to CBS New Ross on Monday 20th October 2025. Deputy Lawlor has been a strong advocate for our school, recently speaking on our behalf in the Dáil regarding our ongoing campaign for a much-needed Sports Hall.

During his visit, he met with our Meitheal Leaders, PE teachers, HSCL, SPHE Coordinator, Principal, Deputy Principal and Chairperson and members of the Board of Management. The discussion focused on the challenges our students face as the only secondary school in County Wexford without an indoor PE facility and on the positive impact that such a development would have on student wellbeing and participation in sport. We are deeply grateful to Deputy Lawlor for his continued support and for championing the needs of our students at national level.



Junior Cycle 2025 Results Day 8th October: Celebration, Friendship & Adventure!

Excitement filled the Edmund Rice Room at CBS New Ross on Junior Cycle Results Day 2025 as students gathered to open their long-awaited results alongside Principal Ms. Rice, Year Head Ms. Eleanor Tighe and TY Co-Ordinator Ms. Aoife Codd. The atmosphere was electric with joy, pride and a few happy tears as students shared their achievements with friends, teachers and family.

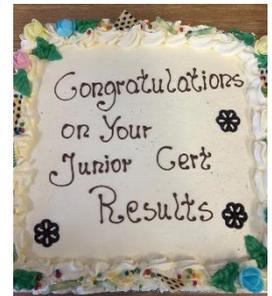


The morning began with warm cups of tea and coffee, sweet treats and plenty of smiles. Laughter echoed through the room as classmates congratulated one another and reflected on their journey through the Junior Cycle.

At 10am, the celebrations took a thrilling turn as the group headed to Leisure Max in Wexford for a well-deserved day of fun and adventure. The group met with owner Aileen Whelan who recounted her path to business success, recalling that she was never academic but thrived after school. Aileen and her staff ensured students were entertained and well fed throughout the day.

From laser tag battles and escape room challenges to bowling strikes and sumo suit showdowns, students embraced every moment at Leisure Max. Zorbing, obstacle courses, and even blunt archery added to the excitement, making it a day to remember.

Congratulations to all our Junior Cycle students 2025 — your hard work, resilience and spirit truly shone through!



Building Partnership with Parents/ Guardians – Information Evenings 2025

Over the past number of weeks, CBS Secondary School has hosted a series of Parent Information Evenings for each year group. These events form an important part of our ongoing commitment as a DEIS school to strengthening the partnership between home, school, and community. Each evening offered practical guidance on supporting students' wellbeing, study habits, and engagement in school life.

Transition into the CBS Secondary School.



Managing and supporting the students' well-being and study skills.

18th September 2025



The "Transition into CBS Secondary School – September 2025" session for First Year parents provided advice on helping students settle into secondary school. It emphasised the importance of attendance, punctuality, organisation and developing independence in both learning and daily routines. Parents were encouraged to support study habits, limit screen time and maintain a positive home environment with praise, structure, and open communication. The presentation also introduced key systems such as academic tracking, CAT4 testing, Google Classroom and VShare, along with the many extracurricular opportunities available.

The 2nd Year Parents' and Guardians' Evening focused on sustaining positive routines and study habits during the middle year of the Junior Cycle. Teachers discussed the importance of attendance, organisation, and time management, encouraging families to promote balanced routines that include study, rest, and leisure. Guidance was shared on Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs), the Reasonable Accommodations (RACE) process, and the upcoming 2026 school tour to Lake Garda, Italy.

2nd year Parents' / Guardians' Evening
CBS Secondary School.

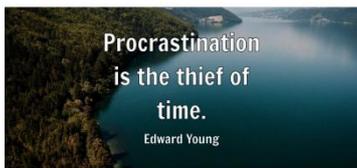


Managing and supporting the students' well-being and study skills.

15th October 2025



The **3rd Year Parents' Evening** highlighted how families can support students through the final year of the Junior Cycle. The focus was on wellbeing, study skills and preparation for the Junior Cycle exams. Parents were encouraged to create organised study spaces, manage screen time and use digital tools such as Google Classroom and Studyclix. Teachers also shared important information on CBAs, the RACE process, and opportunities available in Transition Year.



Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Year 1												
Year 2												
Year 3												
Year 4												
Year 5												
Year 6												
Year 7												
Year 8												
Year 9												
Year 10												
Year 11												
Year 12												

The **“Journey to the Leaving Cert”** evening supported parents and students preparing for the senior cycle. Staff highlighted the importance of daily attendance, balanced study routines and wellbeing. Parents were guided on how to create calm study environments, support time management and encourage constructive praise and communication. Information was also provided on CAO applications, PLC and apprenticeship routes and access programmes such as HEAR and DARE.



Finally, the **5th Year Parents' Information Evening** focused on supporting students' wellbeing, study skills, and preparation for the Leaving Certificate. Key speakers shared advice on developing independent learning habits, maintaining balance between study and downtime, and engaging positively with learning. Updates were provided on the roll-out of the 5th year devices, Reasonable Accommodations (RACE) process, school policies, and supports such as the HSCL programme, after-school study and Studyclix resources.

Each session began with a warm welcome from the Principal Ms. Sarah Rice and an opportunity for questions was facilitated at the end of the session. Through these evenings, CBS Secondary School continues to build strong connections with parents and guardians, reinforcing our shared goal — to nurture, support and empower every student to reach their full potential.

Senior Football Championship, O’Kennedy Park, New Ross Tuesday 7/10/25

New Ross CBS V Selskar College, Wexford

Final score: New Ross CBS 8-8 Selskar College, Wexford 0-1

CBS were fast out of the blocks with an early goal from wing back Ryan D. This was quickly followed up with a goal from midfielder Roan E with a typical thunderbolt finish. Shortly afterwards, full forward Sam F forgot he wasn't playing with the oval ball and threw the ball into the net for a disallowed goal! Four white flags were raised by the umpire when the home side had a run of excellent points from Finn K, Ryan O’N, Ryan D and wing back Oisin K to leave the score at 2-4 to no score midway through the first half. Corner forward Daniel S and Roan then added 2 goals each before half time. Finn played a delightful ball to Daniel for one of his goals while Roan sold his opposite number a beautiful sidestep on his way to netting to leave the half time score at 6-4 to 0-0.

Goalie Logan V-K had little to do at the other end but his kickouts were pin-point when needed, often finding Conor R who was dominating the midfield area.

Selskar started the second half with a spring in their step, but any hope of a comeback was dashed when Sean R bravely won a ball and flicked it on for Finn to finish for another green flag. A point by Selskar

followed before Oisin K went on a scoring blitz from wing back and scored 1-2 in succession to take his tally to 1-3. Finn added a point before Conn C goaled leaving the final scoreline 8-8 to 0-1. While it was a day for the forwards, they were ably assisted with strong midfield and defensive performances from the likes of Darragh D and Ruaidhri H and newcomer Philip K-R who made an immediate impact after coming on at half time.

Next up in the group phase is Kennedy College, New Ross where the team will have the chance to guarantee a semi-final spot. Well done to all.

Sixth Year Geography Geographical Investigation in Tramore

Sixth Year CBS Geography students recently visited Tramore, Co. Waterford, with Ms Murphy, Ms Codd, Ms Tighe and Ms Kelly to complete their Leaving Certificate Geographical Investigation worth 20% of the final exam.

The aim was to examine whether erosion is an active process at the cliff area. Equipped with clinometers, measuring tapes and clipboards, students collected and recorded data on coastal features and processes. They measured cliff height, wave-cut platform width and slope and observed features such as notches and erosion patterns.

The fieldwork gave students a valuable opportunity to apply classroom theory to real-world geography, analysing how coastal forces continue to shape the Tramore coastline.

At the beach, students carried out profile and fabric surveys, using clinometers and ranging poles to measure slopes and study sediment size, wave frequency and wind speed. These activities helped them observe how coastal processes shape the landscape.



Students described the trip as “hands-on and educational,” “practical” and said it was “nice to notice things I wouldn’t have noticed before.” Others commented that it helped them connect theory to real-life features like the cliff, wave-cut platform, and notch.



The Geography teachers commended the group for their engagement, teamwork and enthusiasm, noting that the fieldwork was an excellent example of learning beyond the classroom.

Celebrating Our Student Council

At CBS New Ross, we are proud of the fantastic work of our Student Council, ably guided each year by Ms. Whelan and Mr. Curran. Congratulations to all of this year’s representatives for their dedication and enthusiasm in helping make our school an even better place.

This year, our Student Council is chaired by Noah in 5th year, with George in Transition Year serving as Vice Chairperson. The council also includes key roles such as Secretary, PRO, Events Coordinators, and Treasurers, each contributing their energy and ideas to support school life.

We are delighted to recognise all of our Student Council representatives this year:

- **1st Year:** Mya, Eva, Noah, Nathan
- **2nd Year:** Dilan, Ilmusa, Precious, Zunique, Szymon
- **3rd Year:** Jack, Ellie
- **Transition Year:** Nuadha, Billy, Abbie, George, Zara
- **5th Year:** Noah
- **6th Year:** Eimear



One of the first highlights of the year was our “Trick or Treat for Temple Street” event, where students were invited to dress up and donate €2 to support this wonderful cause. It was heartening to see so many students participate and give back to the wider community.



Every year, the Student Council plays a vital role in school life. They help organise events, represent student voices in discussions with staff, support charity initiatives, and foster a positive, inclusive atmosphere for everyone. Their commitment ensures that our school remains a vibrant, engaging, and welcoming place for all students.

Well done to all our Student Council members - your hard work makes a real difference!

Launching Our New School Crest Design Competition

As we bring our 175th anniversary celebrations to a close, we are proud to announce an exciting initiative that will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come: the creation of a new school crest to celebrate 175 Years of Excellence and also look to the future.

Since 1849, our school has stood as a place of learning, friendship and community spirit. From our humble beginnings in the 19th century to the vibrant institution we are today, our crest has long represented our identity and values. Now, as we look ahead to the next chapter in our history, we invite our entire school community - students, staff, parents, and alumni - to help design a new emblem that reflects who we are today and who we aspire to be

About the Competition

Our Crest Committee includes Ms Rice, Mr Fitzpatrick, Ms Whelan, Ms Wilson, Ms Murray, Ms Oakley, Ms Rowe (HSCL), Ms O’Hanlon, Mr Kavanagh and Susan Synnott (BOM). with student contributors attending some meetings also.



The School Crest Design Competition is open to current and past students. Ms Wilson held a workshop with each year group to discover the student voice. As a result of this consultation and a survey sent to parents and staff, we are seeking designs that:

- Capture the essence of our school’s heritage and our local history
- Reflect our core values of responsibility, kindness, respect and community
- Showcase aspects of school life such as sports, music and a wide range of extra-curricular activities
- Are visually striking and suitable for use across digital and print materials

Entries may be created by hand or digitally and should be accompanied by a short application form (thank you to Ms Whelan for composing this).

Submission Details

- **Deadline:** 5 December 2025
- **Format:** digital file (JPG) or physical artwork (A4)
- **Submission:** email entry to crestcommittee@cbsnewross.ie or physical entries are to be submitted to Ms Murray in Room 15 (Art Room)

It is hoped to have an exhibition of all entries in December. The winning design will be revealed later this year and the new crest will officially become part of our identity in September 2026.

A Lasting Legacy

This competition is not only a chance to showcase aspects of school life such as sports, music, art and a wide range of extra-curricular activities but also an opportunity to shape the symbol that will represent our school’s next era. We hope our new crest will honour our proud 175-year history while embodying the innovation, diversity and unity that define our school today.

Board Games Club: A new club in CBS!



Are you a first or second year looking for something fun to do at lunchtime and maybe meet some new friends? Join us in room 14 on Mondays and Wednesdays for board games and chats! No experience needed! Whether you love a bit of competition or just want to hang out and try something new, there's always a seat at the table. For further information you can talk to Ms O'Mahoney, Ms E Butler or Ms A Butler.



Open Night Welcomes Future Students and Families



Our annual Open Night was a wonderful success, as we welcomed 6th Class pupils and their families to explore all that our school has to offer. Visitors toured classrooms and experienced a taste of our wide range of subjects, including Business Studies, English, French, Gaeilge, Geography, Graphics, History, Mathematics, Music, Science and Visual Art, as well as our important Wellbeing subjects – PE, SPHE, CSPE, and Religious Education.

The night was led by Ms Kelly, who arranged all the tours, talks and volunteers. Parents / guardians attended an information talk in the Edmund Rice Room, where they heard from Principal Ms Sarah Rice, Deputy Principal Mr Barry Fitzpatrick, and staff representatives including Ms Eleanor Tighe (Extra-Curricular Activities), Mr Shane Curran (Year Head), Ms Karen Murphy (Learning Support) Ms Margaret Rowe (HSCL). Students also shared their experiences, with contributions from our Head of School and a Meitheal Leader.

The evening also featured exciting news about our upcoming school extension project beginning soon, which will further enhance facilities and subjects for students.

The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, with all staff involved and 91 student volunteers helping to guide guests (from parking attendants to participating in classroom activities to speaking to families) and share their pride in the school community. It was a fantastic evening showcasing the spirit, enthusiasm and excellence that define our school.



The Meitheal Student Leadership Programme at CBS New Ross

Transitioning from primary to secondary school is a big step. It can be both exciting and overwhelming - a new building, new teachers, new subjects and lots of new faces. At CBS New Ross, we understand how important it is to make our first year students feel supported, welcomed and confident as they begin this journey.



That's where our Meitheal Student Leadership Programme comes in - a powerful part of school life that reflects the values of care, community and leadership.

MEITHEAL LEADERS 2025 - 2026:

Back - Angel, Hannchen, Cayley, Ms Rowe (co-ordinator), Ellie-Jo, Laura, Hazel

Front - Noah, Luke, Jamie, Ionut

What is Meitheal?

The word *Meitheal* comes from the Irish tradition of community cooperation – neighbours helping each other to bring in the harvest. In the context of schools, Meitheal is a leadership programme where a group of senior students are trained to support first years as they begin their secondary school experience. These student leaders are more than just friendly faces - they are mentors, role models and a key part of building a strong, positive school environment.

How Meitheal Supports First Years at CBS New Ross

Starting secondary school can be a big change. Some students may feel nervous or unsure. The Meitheal leaders help to ease those worries by:

- Welcoming first years on their first day
- Organising fun bonding activities and games
- Helping students find their way around the school
- Being someone to talk to when things feel tough
- Creating a sense of belonging and community

In many ways, they are the bridge between students and teachers, offering a listening ear and peer support in a way that feels approachable and safe.

How are Meitheal leaders chosen and trained?

Students apply for the Meitheal programme. They go through an interview process and, if selected, attend a special training programme during the summer delivered with the support of Wexford Local Development. There, they learn about leadership, teamwork, communication and how to support others with empathy and respect.

Our Meitheal team receives specialist training. This training helps prepare students for their leadership role, focusing on teamwork, communication skills, active listening and how to support others effectively and empathetically.

The training also includes elements of personal development, confidence-building, and ethical leadership - helping our students grow into strong, compassionate leaders, both in and outside the school.

The impact of Meitheal

For first years, having a friendly face to turn to can make a huge difference. Many students say that Meitheal helped them settle in, make new friends and feel more confident in those crucial early weeks.

For Meitheal leaders themselves, the experience is just as powerful. They develop leadership skills, grow in confidence and leave a lasting legacy in their school. It's a chance to give back and to show that leadership is about service, not status.

A School Culture of Support

At CBS New Ross, we believe that a school is more than just a place to learn - it's a community. The Meitheal Student Leadership Programme is one of the many ways we strengthen that community, ensuring every student feels supported from day one.

Together, with the continued partnership of Wexford Local Development, we are proud to empower young leaders and create an environment where all students can thrive.

Primary School Visits

Ms Rice and Ms Rowe (HSCL) visited 12 local primary schools to build strong links and personally invite 6th class pupils and their families to our Open Night on Tuesday 21 October 2025. These visits highlighted our inclusive ethos, the supports available to students transitioning to 1st year and the welcoming community that defines our school. We brought former students back to visit Bunscoil Rís NS, Educate Together NS and St. Canice's NS. Invites to the Open Night were also sent out to another 11 primary schools via e-mail and post.



CBS Amber Flag Committee Raise Over €700 for Jigsaw



The Amber Flag Committee at CBS recently held a hugely successful fundraiser in aid of **Jigsaw**, the Irish youth mental health charity. Through a combination of online donations and a “**Cosy Day**” non-uniform day, the school community came together to raise an impressive **€700** to support vital mental health services for young people.

In the weeks leading up to the event, the Amber Flag team ran a creative **poster campaign** promoting positive mental health messages throughout the school. They also organised **table quizzes** for both 1st and 6th year students, encouraging open conversations about wellbeing and highlighting the importance of looking after our mental health.

The fundraiser was part of the ongoing efforts by the CBS Amber Flag Committee to promote awareness and inclusivity within the school. The





group meets every Monday at lunchtime, and they are already busy planning activities for **Stand Up Week** this November.

The CBS community is proud of the Amber Flag team for their dedication, energy, and commitment to fostering a positive and supportive school environment.

Boys' and Girls' Basketball

Training for boys' and girls' basketball teams takes place on Mondays after school in the Mercy Sports Hall from 4:20pm- 5:20pm. Google classrooms are up and running for both boys and girls and updates about matches and training are posted here. If you need to be added to the classroom, please email Ms. Tighe or Ms. Kiely. We have been so delighted with the turnout for training so far this year.



Matches for U16 and U19 teams are well underway already. With all group games needing to be played by 5th November. Great teamwork and determination have been shown in all games so far and we look forward to the remaining matches. Games for 1st and 2nd Year teams will begin in January.

U16 & U19 Boys Update

The boys made the short trip to the Good Counsel for their opening games. The Under-16 CBS team delivered an impressive performance, securing a convincing 56-30 victory over their Good Counsel counterparts. The match showcased excellent teamwork and scoring prowess from the CBS side, recording an impressive win over their U16 team. The Under-19 fixture proved more challenging for CBS New Ross, who faced a determined Good Counsel side. Despite a valiant effort, CBS fell 24-66 in a hard-fought contest. The remaining games for these teams take place against Waterpark and St. Pauls on 5th November.



U16 & U19 Girls Update

The U16 and U19 Girls have enjoyed three home fixtures to date. The U19 Girls have shown great strength and determination recording impressive wins over all teams Kennedy College (43-10) GPL (20-4) and Duiske College (26-3). Their most recent game showed great promise



with all girls understanding and applying zone defense so effectively. The U16 Girls recorded strong wins against Duiske College (32-10) and Kennedy College (42-6) and were unfortunate to fall short in the final quarter to GPL (29-10). All games have seen all squad members get court time and already the hard work in training and matches is evident.



Supporting Our First Years: A Smooth Start to Secondary School Life

Transitioning from primary to secondary school can be both exciting and challenging. At CBS New Ross, we understand how important it is to help our new First Year students feel comfortable, confident and connected from the very beginning. A range of supports and initiatives were put in place throughout the year to ensure a positive start and continued success for every student.

'Getting to Know You' Form & Assessment Test – last school year 8th February 2025

Our transition process began early with a 'Getting to Know You' form, completed by incoming First Years in February 2025. This form helped us learn more about each student's interests, strengths and any areas where support might be needed. The information allowed staff to prepare a welcoming environment tailored to the needs of each individual. Students brought this form with them when they attended their Assessment Test with all their new classmates.

Information Evening for Parents 'New Beginnings' - last school year 13 May 2025

In May 2025, we hosted an Information Evening for Parents and Guardians. During this session, families received important details about the school and the supports available to students and parents/guardians. The evening included an explanation of CAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) scores and practical advice on how to prepare students over the summer months to ensure a confident start in September.

Tours of CBS New Ross - last school year April/May 2025

All incoming 1st years were invited to a tour of the school with Margaret Rowe, HSCL. They were shown around all classrooms in the school (most importantly, their new base classrooms!). They were given the opportunity to ask questions and got to meet Ms Rice and Tara in the office.

Strong Links with Primary Schools

Margaret Rowe, HSCL and Karen Murphy, SENCO, worked closely with local primary schools. Through meetings and communication, they gathered valuable insights about each student's learning profile, social needs and potential supports. This collaboration ensured continuity of care and a smooth handover from primary to post-primary education.

A Gentle Start: First Two Days for First Years Only

The new school year began with two days dedicated solely to First Year students, supported by our Meitheal Leaders - trained senior students who act as mentors and role models. These days focused on orientation activities, getting to know the school environment, meeting classmates and teachers and building a sense of belonging before the full school community returned.

Extra Support Throughout September

We recognise that settling in takes time. For the month of September, SNAs and classroom teachers offered additional support at the end of each school day to help students organise materials, review homework and adjust to new routines. This daily support provided reassurance and built students' independence step by step.

First Year Bonding Trip - 5 September 2025

The September Newsletter contained information on this wonderful day!

Digital Skills Workshop - 9 September 2025

To ensure students could engage fully with online learning, First Years took part in a workshop on school emails and Google Classroom. This hands-on session taught them how to access resources, submit assignments and communicate effectively with teachers - skills that are essential for success in the modern classroom. We hope that by improving digital skills, we lighten the weight of schoolbags.

Information Evening for Parents - 18 September 2025

A second Information Evening for Parents was held in September 2025. Families were introduced to the three Class Tutors (Ms Wilson, Ms Kiely and Ms Delaney) and the Year Head (Mr Kavanagh), who outlined their roles in supporting students academically and personally. This evening reinforced our partnership with parents in helping students achieve their best.



Ms Kiely (1.2 Tutor), Ms Rowe (HSCL), Mr Kavanagh (1st year Year Head),
Ms Wilson (1.1 Tutor), Ms Delaney (1.3 Tutor)

A Community of Care and Connection

At CBS, we are proud of our strong tradition of supporting students as they begin their secondary school journey. Through early preparation, strong communication and a caring community spirit, we help make every First Year's transition a positive and memorable experience.

Trip to University of Limerick



On Thursday, 16th October, our 5th Year students and a number of 6th Year students had the exciting opportunity to attend the University of Limerick (UL) Open Day. This visit formed an important part of our Guidance and Career Education curriculum, which aims to help students explore their future study and career options while developing key decision-making skills.

The day gave students a valuable insight into life at a third-level institution. Upon arrival, our group was warmly welcomed by current UL students who offered guidance and information about

the campus and its facilities, including the impressive library, sports arena and student village. The open day provided a real sense of what it would be like to study and live at UL.

Students had the opportunity to visit different faculty buildings — from Engineering and Science to Arts, Humanities and Business — where they could attend talks and demonstrations. Many took the chance to speak directly with lecturers and course representatives, asking questions about entry requirements, subject choices and future career prospects. These conversations were both informative and inspiring, helping students to connect their classroom learning to real-world opportunities. The students also had the opportunity to learn more about the range of student supports offered at UL.

Such experiences are an essential part of our school's Guidance Programme, supporting students as they consider their post-school pathways. By visiting a university setting, students can visualise their goals more clearly and make informed decisions about their future studies and careers.

Overall, it was a highly enjoyable and worthwhile day. We would like to thank the staff and students of the University of Limerick for their warm hospitality and for providing such an engaging and educational experience.



Staff interest in Special Education Needs

Moving Beyond “Special” – JMB Education Conference 2025

This term, Ms Joanne Tynan and Ms Karen Murphy attended the Joint Managerial Body (JMB) Education Conference, which focused on the theme “*Moving Beyond Special.*” The conference highlighted how schools across Ireland are working to create truly inclusive learning environments, where every student is supported to achieve their potential.



We were inspired by the many examples shared of good practice in supporting students with additional educational needs. The message was clear: inclusion benefits everyone, not just a few. We look forward to building on these ideas in our own school, continuing to promote a culture of care, respect, and high expectations for all.

Inclusion Spotlight

Our SENCO, Ms Karen Murphy, is taking part in the *Fostering Inclusive Quality Education in Finland and Ireland: Capacity Building* webinar series, an international project exploring best practice in inclusive education.

The first webinar, held on 4th September 2025, was led by Professor Lani Florian and asked the question “*Inclusive and special education – same or different?*” It focused on preparing teachers for inclusive pedagogy, Universal Design for Learning (UDL), and the importance of flexible curricula. Contributions from experts in Finland and Ireland highlighted how inclusive approaches benefit all learners.

The second webinar, scheduled for Tuesday 30th September 2025, was presented by Associate Professor Simoni Symeonidou and explored effective strategies for resource allocation at school and regional levels. A thematic panel discussed how resources can be used most effectively to support whole-school approaches and regional initiatives.

Ms Murphy will be attending all webinars in this series and bringing back valuable insights to strengthen our school’s commitment to inclusion and high-quality learning for every student.

SENCO Forum in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick

Ms. Joanne Tynan and Ms. Karen Murphy represented our school at the **SENCO Forum in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick** on Friday 3rd October. The forum focused on important developments in supporting students with additional educational needs, including:

- Policy Updates and SENCO Check-ins
- Senior Cycle Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes
- Student Support Planning and Target Setting Workshop with the NCSE Post-Primary Team



Attending this forum gives our staff the opportunity to engage with national experts, share best practice, and bring back valuable insights to strengthen the support we provide in our school.

We are proud of our team's commitment to ensuring that every student can thrive in an inclusive and supportive learning environment.

RACE (Reasonable Accommodation in Certificate Examinations) Scheme

Ms Karen Murphy and Ms Joanne Tynan attended an important webinar on the ***RACE (Reasonable Accommodation in Certificate Examinations) Scheme***.

This joint initiative from the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS) and the State Examinations Commission (SEC) provided an overview of the RACE scheme and guidance on the application process. The session focused on accommodations for students with learning difficulties, hearing difficulties, and physical difficulties, ensuring fair access to state examinations.

Ms Murphy will speak to the parents about RACE on the Third year information night on Tuesday 7th October.

Supporting Inclusive Practices for Autistic Learners

The teachers at CBS recently attended an NCSE presentation on *Supporting Inclusive Practices for Autistic Learners in Post-Primary Schools*. The session focused on practical strategies and whole-school approaches that help create supportive, structured and inclusive environments for all students.

The presentation highlighted eight key domains of support for autistic learners — including communication, sensory processing, emotional development, learning environment and social interaction. Teachers explored how these areas interconnect to build students' confidence, wellbeing and participation.

One of the central messages was that autism should be understood from a perspective of difference, not deficit. Inclusion begins with recognising individual strengths and adjusting the learning environment to meet diverse needs. Visual supports, structured routines, predictable classrooms and clear communication were identified as essential tools to support understanding and reduce anxiety.

The importance of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) was also emphasised, ensuring that all students can access lessons in multiple ways — through visuals, movement, digital tools and flexible teaching approaches.

Staff left the session inspired by the message that small, consistent adjustments — such as using visual cues, reducing classroom stress and supporting transitions — can make a big difference in helping autistic students thrive both socially and academically.



Ms Karen Murphy CBS, Ms Sarah Lambe NCSE, Ms Sarah Rice CBS, MS Joanne Tynan CBS

Celebrating Our School Community in the Spirit of Edmund Rice

As we look back on the busy month of October, it is clear that the wide range of activities featured in this newsletter reflect the five key elements of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust 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.



This Charter continues to guide and shape all that we do in CBS New Ross, reminding us daily of the vision of Blessed Edmund Rice and the values that unite us as a school community.

We are very grateful to our dedicated staff for their creativity, care and commitment and to our students for their enthusiasm and willingness to get involved in every aspect of school life. Together our staff and students bring our ethos to life in such meaningful and practical ways.

As we look ahead to the next edition, we warmly invite parents/guardians and students to share their stories, achievements and photos for inclusion in our November Newsletter, so that we can continue to celebrate the many ways our CBS New Ross community grows, learns and leads together.