

“What Happened?”

All-Ireland Champions!

We need to pay huge tribute to these amazing people:

Zoe Ciechelska, Pru Heffernan, Mischa Young Harte, Emily Delaney, Imogen Kane, Freya Burac, Hollie Mulhall, Hanna Kawulok, Zara Dunne, Hannah Carr, Ellyn Kiely, Daire Mullen, Teagan Murphy Doyle, Amelia Whelan, and their coaches, Lisa Gallagher, Rachael Cheasty, Sinéad Groarke and Méabh Quinn

for bringing the school so much joy this year.

From last year's team going undefeated through the Minor D league to be crowned Leinster Champions and promoted to league C, the girls went on this year to win the East Regional Final in Oblate Hall, Templeogue in March.

But that was only the beginning – with this being D league, it got them into the All-Ireland competition.

They then played their way in great style through the playoffs, and quarter and semi-finals in Cork, and then defeated Coláiste Eínde of Salthill, Galway at the National Basketball Arena on 14 May, 37 to 22.

Not only does this bring the school into B league for next year, it brings so much joy and pride to our school community and provides a fine example of how dedication and hardwork can make our dreams come true.



Principal's Message

Another year and so many more milestones! Not only are we national basketball champions (something I'm particularly proud of as a former basketball player), but we also held our first ever musical and what an absolute joy that was to experience.

We also celebrated our Class of 2026 in Orlagh House and what a beautiful event it was for us all. The buzz and the excitement of such events are infectious and do so much for the spirit of the school.

Our students also picked up lots of awards and represented the school at ECO-UNESCO, Scifest, Young Scientist, Young Social Innovators, Educate Together's teacher conference, student event and AGM ... the list goes on.

Nothing happens in isolation, and it takes committed team members and supportive peers and parents/guardians to help students achieve and grow in this way. The magic happens because it is rooted in our restorative learning culture, our school values and school motto. A heartfelt thank you to everybody in our school community who has helped our students get so far.

As the summer holidays approach, we wish our students who are undertaking state examinations all the very best and many remain here to support them. It will soon be time for rest and regeneration. Be sure to spend some time doing the things you love with the people close to you, and take opportunities to replenish in nature.

Be Your Best Self,
 Claire





Our First Musical :)

Cai Cummins as Troy and Alannah Halpin as Gabriella



Photo by Alex Whelan

to play, with her loud over-the-top passion for the arts, but the incredible direction I got from the acting crew helped me to bring her to life.

It was a sad feeling when the final curtain fell, but I soon focused on the positive effect the experience had on me and my cast mates – it brought us all together in such an unlikely but fulfilling way. I feel eternally grateful for the opportunity. I doubt I will ever forget the laughs we had, the songs, the catchphrases we used: it will all replay happily in my head. To every single member of the cast and crew, just remember, as Ms. D says, “you are limited only by your own imagination.”

From the Inside Out *by Niamh Sheridan (Ms. Darbus)*

One word to describe my experience in FETSS High School Musical, it would definitely be excitement. From the moment it was announced back in October to the final bows on closing night, I for one was completely enveloped in a buzz of excitement.

At the very beginning, I was honestly unsure how we were going to pull off something of this scale, but the focus and ability of the people involved soon showed the way. The community we built as a cast and crew was so full of passion, talent and creativity that every rehearsal was a joy to experience, and the energy and enthusiasm was infectious. It was hugely satisfying to see the show take shape week by week.

Playing Ms. Darbus was the best fun I've had in my school experience. When I got the role, I wasn't sure I would warm to this middle-aged drama teacher's confidence and eccentricities, but I couldn't have been more wrong. It was definitely challenging

Photo by Alex Whelan



Saran Cummins as Sharpay

From the Outside In

Would our much-anticipated inaugural musical, “High School Musical” deliver? Archie Evans was at the Civic Theatre for the final performance to find out.

The song for me that best showed off the cast's talents to their fullest was “Getch'a Head in the Game”, performed by the Jocks clique: the blocking was fun and the prop use clever with basketballs a flyin' between synchronised dance moves. The love song “I Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You” between the two leads was another highlight – both singers charmed, as did the hilarious addition of a mimed saxophone serenade from **Kieran Davitt**.

Photo by Alex Whelan



HSM cast sharing the musical highs with the audience

Photo by Alex Whelan



Niamh Sheridan as Ms. Darbus preaching

Performances were strong throughout the show. For me, especially outstanding were those same leads, **Alannah Halpin** as Gabriella, displaying her extensive experience of singing and acting, and **Cai Cummins** who captured Troy's compromised character very well. A character with less stage time but who stood out nonetheless was drama teacher, Ms. Darbus, ably played by **Niamh Sheridan**, who nailed her eccentricity and vivacity so well. The ensemble overall had excellent chemistry and few improvements could have been made. If I were to give advice for future shows, I'd only say: you can never have too much clarity of delivery by way of taking one's time with lines and vocal projection.

The staging displayed much creativity, too, both aesthetic and technical (multi-purposing the double-sided backdrops), not just supporting but even adding to the story without ever “stealing the show” from the actors. Tech, like lighting and sound design, all went off without a hitch (– not always the case for school productions) and really helped show off the final song and curtain call – a celebration of music and colour highlighting the entire ensemble.

The enthusiasm of the cast and crew was so infectious, the audience were in the palms of their hands from the first line. Great performances, earworm songs and a cheeky reference or two to the school all made for a highly entertaining night of musical theatre. How could one not look forward to the next one?

Sports Update



Rugby

Our rugby team (pictured) won the Council Cup in Donnybrook stadium, which success earned them a photo-op with the South Dublin County Mayor.

Football

Our U15, U17 and U19 boys football teams enjoyed another season of both league and cup competitions. Results were mixed, but all three teams improved steadily and helped with preparations for our trip to Verona in October to compete in the Mediterranean Cup.

Educate Together Olympics

One of the highlights of the calendar, the ET Olympics, was another successful outing this year. We had many 1st and 2nd year students competing and they represented the school brilliantly. Our relay teams once again found themselves on the podium congratulations to them!

Athletics

Congratulations also to **Cai Cummins** who qualified for the Leinster Schools Athletics Championships with a personal best in the 400m final.

Debating Their Way to the Top ...16

Our senior debating team made it to the Concern Debate Competition quarter finals, finding themselves therefore in the top sixteen of 180 teams. Huge congratulations to the debaters (pictured) and thank you to timekeeper, **Rian** and teachers **Zoe** and **Aine** for mentoring.



Isabelle, Cai, Molly, and Sam in the ring.



Can it get any more exciting?

We had our first History Week in the school this year, involving bringing as much 'back in the day' into our to-days as we could over the week and coinciding with the culmination of a number of History projects that had been running over the term.

The first years participated in a project called 'Oldest Object', in which each had to identify the oldest item in their family's possession, do a little research on it, and display it or a photograph of it along with a caption at an exhibition on the final day of History Week.

On that day, too, second years got a chance to exhibit their CBA 1 local history projects in the form of posters, booklets and various displays, on topics ranging from the Fatima Mansions and Jacob's biscuit factory to family connections with World War II. Historian in Residence for Dublin South County Council **Liz Gillis** visited the school for talks and workshops with the students about research and using sources.

Transition Year students were on a more creative vibe, choosing an everyday object from their lives and imagining it being found (and misinterpreted) by generations in the distant future.

Meanwhile, Team members were treated by **Airon** to a history crossword with their coffee break, and by **Pawl** to a display of objects from his pre-digital epoch. There wasn't an open eye in the house!



A small selection of the "oldest objects" researched by our 1st years



Associate with your School Community!

The SCA have supported our school with a wide range of community-focused initiatives.

Most notably and recently, through the SCA's organisation of a Cyclethon you, our school community and beyond, have helped us raise an incredible €2033.11, between our donation page and at the event.

Other events included the talk we had for parents and guardians from Fiona Forman, founder of Weaving Wellbeing; the fundraising raffle at the Bingo Night; and a sociable cookery evening, sponsored by Thermomix. The SCA assisted with the raffle and auction for the school musical, helping to support this fantastic production.

The SCA are keen to welcome new members to the committee, as well to hear any ideas you may have or maybe help with one-off events. Get in touch via fetssca@gmail.com.



Students and teachers at the Cyclethon in The Square

Erasmus+ Benefits All



We hosted five teachers from a school in Reykjavik, Iceland, and one from Alicante, recently who were visiting Ireland to gain more insight into our educational system and specifically looking at the varied supports that we offer here to our students.

Two sets of 2nd-year tour guides, **Nico** and **Teagan**, and **Saran Prys** and **Zoe** (pictured with **Jorge** and **Aisling**) showed them the range of activities and sports we have on offer for our students.

Jorge from Alicante was particularly interested in our different teaching and learning activities in construction and maths lessons, (and a certain armchair in room 13).

In turn, nine Firhouse ETSS teachers will enjoy training and school shadowing experiences this summer in a variety of EU countries, including Spain and the Czech Republic.

We are looking forward to incorporating their learning into our practices when they return in the new academic year.

Commendation Award

Sixteen students across 1st to Transition Year showcased an impressive range of scientific investigations at the annual SciFest@College competition in Dublin City University this May.

They explored sustainability and gaming, climate change awareness, sound levels in classrooms, biological investigations, and technology-based solutions to environmental challenges.

A special mention goes to **Valentine Chukwemeka Nwaeme** who received a Judges' Commendation Award in recognition of the quality and originality of his project.

We are extremely proud of all of their achievements.



Roots in the Community

Our TY Horticulture students took part in a community tree planting project in Woodstown Estate.



The trees were provided by Dublin County Council and planted by the students alongside volunteers from Dodder Action Group, Knocklyon Network Tidy Towns, Rathfarnham Village Tidy Towns, and workers from Woodie's (pictured). The project, organised with Eco activist, John Kiberd, is part of the "Stepping Stone Forests" initiative, helping to create more green spaces and support biodiversity in the local area. It was a great day of teamwork and community spirit for everyone involved.





Réaltchomharthaí ón bl. 6



An Reithe (Aries)
(21ú Márta – 19ú Aibreáin)

Is duine tiomanta diongbháilte thú, ach bíonn tú in iomaíocht le daoine go minic. Is láidir do ghaiscíoch inmheánach, ach tá do ghremlin inmheánach níos láidre fós. Tá cuid agat ag iarraidh mórgacht, ach níl ag teastáil ón gcuid eile ach sneaiceanna. Ná tabhair dúshlán rás d'éinne inniu — beidh an bua ort, ach tarraingeoidh tú matán.



An Tarbh (Taurus)
(20ú Aibreáin – 20ú Bealtaine)

Is duine ceannána agus díograsach thú. Bí cúramach — déanfaidh tú botún mór inniu, agus beidh do chuid gruaige ar fud na háite. Is iontach an rud é go bhfeileann maoile duit!



An Cúpla (Gemini)
(21ú Bealtaine – 20ú Meitheamh)

Is duine solúbtha agus beo-intinneach thú. Uaireanta bíonn tú uallach. Athraíonn tú do mheon ó lá amháin go lá eile. Meallfaidh tú gach duine ag cóisir an mhí seo agus gheobhaidh do chuid smaointí an t-aitheantas atá i ndán dóibh. Déanfaidh tú dearmad ar rud tábhachtach agus tú i lár abairte — ach is é seo mar tiocfaidh do phearsanta eile in áit.

Summit Sisters

Twelve of our transition year students took part in 'Summit Sisters' in the Dublin mountains. This is a programme designed for teenage girls combining hillwalking with creative and personal interests such as photography, music, art, science, nature and wellbeing.



Ethical Chocolate Ed

Third-year students, Seán McDonnell and Cillian McCann recently presented at the Educate Together Student Conference, and to teachers and parents at this year's Educate Together AGM.

Their project, overseen by their Ethical Education teacher, **Aine Sreenan**, focuses on the problem of child slave labour in chocolate production. .

Seán and Cillian: "We are passionate about educating everyone on the hidden behaviours of the major chocolate corporations that we all know and love. We believe that if everyone knows better they can shop better, and we can all use our consumer power to change even large corporations. We would like to share some information and our petition for Christmas FM to stop accepting sponsorship from Cadbury's."

You scan the accompanying QR code to sign Seán and Cillian's petition.



Advocacy Award for Innovators

Throughout the year, our Transition Year Young Social Innovators, with the support of their teacher, **Rachael**, were working to help combat the issue of social media addiction and over reliance on Artificial Intelligence. In December the group of eleven students (**Safia, Charlie, Alyssa, Ava, Jael, Max, Ben, Cai, Aaron, Oliver, Conor O'F**) collectively named "Stuck in the Loop", created and implemented workshops with the 1st-year students. These workshops aimed to educate the students about the risks of social media addiction, and how to spot mistakes made by AI.



In March, the group performed at the annual Speak Out event in the Mansion House. They presented their concern for the issue and how to try to combat it, and went on to win an Advocacy award, celebrating their creativity, clarity, and passion. Well done to all students involved.



Class Acts of 2026: Sixth and Transition Years



6th year students of 2026 at their graduation in Orlagh House with some of the team

As if some goddesses were indicating their approval of something we did, we had full-on glorious sunshine for both the sixth-year graduation ceremony on 21 May in Orlagh House and the Transition Year Festival of Learning on 26 May in the school.

The significance of both these years in the students' journey through secondary school was marked and celebrated in great style, with music, speeches, photos, recollections and well wishes from all involved. Having family members there to see our values being so well represented made the whole thing



Transition year students being congratulated by their PL, **Niall**.



The TY year represented as a long and winding road

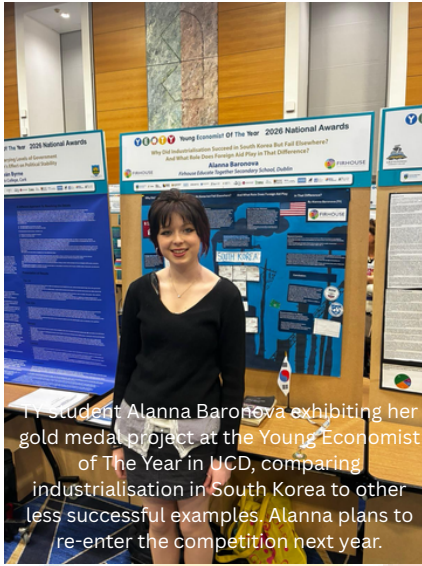
Learning Outside and In

Our commitment to Project-Based Learning continued most recently with 1st years and 2nd years visiting Dodder Valley Park and Orlagh House respectively; and there rotating in groups through teacher-led workshops on their respective themes: Sustainable Development for 2nd years, and Biophilic Community Spaces for 1st years.

This is an all-school effort, not just in terms of developing and running the workshops and facilitating those teachers to be away from the school for day 1, but also the supervision and help given on day 2 as the students go off timetable to process and present their learning.

Workshops ranged from orienteering to writing haiku poems for 2nd years, and from exploring biodiversity to making fires for 1st years. Outputs involved the 1st years in designing a biophilic community space for the school and 2nd years in designing a Pokémon-inspired board game about the Sustainable Development Goals.





11 Student Alanna Baronova exhibiting her gold medal project at the Young Economist of The Year in UCD, comparing industrialisation in South Korea to other less successful examples. Alanna plans to re-enter the competition next year.





Irish Schools Sustainability Network member, Codie Preston of St. Anne's GAA joined us for a monster native tree planting intervention around St Anne's pitch. Pictured with Claire and Deirdre.



Historian, Liz Gillis sharing her passion for archives with 2nd-year History students on a visit to Tallaght Library



Hanna, Shane, Raphi, Peace, Rama, Zara and Claire with the money they raised for GOAL with a bake sale

