

SUMMER Newsletter

JUNE 2026



From the Principal's Desk

The end of the school year is always a special time in school life, as we say farewell to our Sixth Year students and give thanks for a successful school year. This year we were delighted to be able to celebrate our Graduation Mass with Bishop Dónal Roche. It was great to acknowledge the completion of six years of secondary education.

I wish the very best of luck to the class of 2026 in their Leaving Cert exams. It is also important to acknowledge the guidance and support that you, as parents, have given to the girls as they moved through senior cycle education. As a parent, I know only too well how much parents do to support their children through the state examinations. I am very confident that the class of 2026 will do extremely well in their Leaving Certificate. This is in no small way due to the help and support that they received from their dedicated teachers. Special thanks to their Year Head Ms. McFarland.

Best of luck also to our Junior Cert students as they embark on their exams. I know that they will do themselves justice, safe in the knowledge that the very exciting Transition Year programme is just around the corner!

We are very grateful for the continued support of the parents in Cluny, an essential part of school life! I would like to thank in particular the support from the Parents' Council in helping to organise events throughout the year, including a uniform sale, a book sale and the huge annual undertaking of arranging the Debs' reception.



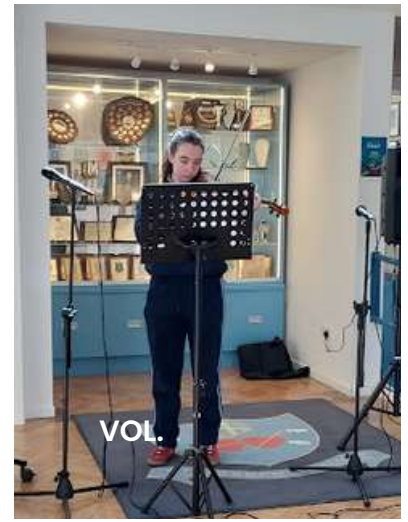
This was an important year in the history of the school as we welcomed in our cohort of boys as we made our move to Co-education. So far it has been a seamless change and has gone better than could have been expected.

We also had a Whole School Evaluation (WSE) during the month of March. This is the first to occur since 2011 and the feedback given in terms of the management of the school, teaching and learning and most importantly student wellbeing was very good and affirmed the great job that we are all doing in the school.

During the course of the year I was delighted to attend several events celebrating Cluny education. This year a London branch of St. Joseph of Cluny, Freetown, Sierra Leone held their reunion in Dublin.

It was great to see so many past pupils travel to Ireland and meet many of their former teachers from the Cluny order, who had dedicated themselves to educating students in Sierra Leone. The order, founded in France in 1807 by Blessed Anne Marie Javouhey, has been instrumental in the education of thousands of young people.

Mr Ben Healy - Principal



CAREERS

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT

It has been a busy few months in the Guidance Department. Our 6th Year students have been immersed in CAO preparation, researching courses, attending Open Days and making those big decisions about life after Cluny.

We were delighted to welcome a speaker from Dublin City University to the school, while many students also visited colleges including University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, Technological University Dublin and a variety of PLC and Further Education colleges as they explored the many exciting options available to them.

A reminder to all 6th Years that the Central Applications Office Change of Mind facility remains open until 1st July. Please continue to check all CAO emails carefully over the coming weeks. Transition Year students completed their Guidance module this term and undertook the Cambridge and Eirquest Aptitude Tests. It has been wonderful meeting students individually to discuss their results, strengths, interests and possible subject choices as they begin thinking about the future and discovering more about themselves along the way.



Our 5th Years enjoyed a fantastic visit to University College Dublin for a campus tour, a great insight into university life and, of course, a fabulous lunch! Many students have also attended one-to-one guidance appointments this term as preparations quietly begin for the year ahead.

We were also delighted to welcome our incoming First Year students and their families for our Introduction Evening. There was a lovely atmosphere in the library as students took part in icebreaker games, chatted together and began getting to know one another. A week later, many returned to complete their CAT4 assessments and most recently we were thrilled to welcome them back once again when our Sports and Home Economics Departments organised sports activities and pizza making – a fantastic afternoon, full of laughter, energy and a few impressive pizza-making skills!

Our current First Years participated in the “Sticks and Stones” anti-bullying workshop which encouraged important conversations around kindness, inclusion and the impact words can have on others. This links closely with our Bí Cineálta initiative and our continued focus on creating a caring and respectful school community.

Alongside educational and career guidance, students across all year groups have continued to access personal counselling and support throughout the year. Sometimes the most important conversations happen quietly behind closed doors, and it is always a privilege to support students through both challenges and successes along the way.

Finally, to our wonderful 6th Year students – thank you. Having become Year Head to this group in 5th Year, it has been such a pleasure to watch you grow into the young adults you are today. You have brought energy, humour, resilience and great spirit to the school community. We are incredibly proud of you all and wish you every success and happiness as you begin your next chapter and prepare for your Leaving Certificate.

As another school year comes to an end, I hope all students take the opportunity to pack away the school bags for a while, switch off the alarms and enjoy the simple pleasures of summer. Spend time with family and friends, get outdoors and enjoy the freedom!

Wishing you all a safe, relaxing and sunshine-filled summer break. I look forward to seeing you all in August.

— Ms McFarland



ACADEMIC & SPORTS PRIZEGIVING



ENGLISH

In February, our Third-Year students had the exciting opportunity to attend a performance of William Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* at the Mill Theatre. The trip was organised as part of the Junior Cycle English course and gave students the chance to experience one of Shakespeare's most famous plays brought to life on stage.

The performance was both engaging and thought-provoking. Students were impressed by the actors' powerful performances, particularly in the roles of Shylock, Portia, and Antonio. The modern staging and creative use of lighting and music helped make the play more accessible and enjoyable for a young audience, while still staying true to Shakespeare's original themes and language.

Seeing the play performed live allowed students to gain a deeper understanding of the characters, relationships, and key themes they have been studying in class, including justice, mercy, prejudice, and friendship. Many students commented that the experience helped them appreciate the humour and emotion of the play in a way that is difficult to capture through reading alone.

The trip was not only educational but also a very enjoyable social outing for students and teachers alike. It was a memorable day that will certainly help students as they continue their study of Shakespeare as part of the Junior Cycle course.



DRAMA CLUB



SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE



SUN, MAR 1, 2026 – TUE, MAR 17,
2026

Seachtain na Gaeilge is a week celebrating Irish culture, language and traditions. Is féile idirnáisiúnta Ghaeilge í Seachtain na Gaeilge, atá ar an gceiliúradh is mó dár dteanga agus dár gcultúr dúchais a bhíonn ar siúl in Éirinn agus in go leor tíortha eile gach bliain.

EVENTS IN SCHOOL

There was a céilí on Friday the 13th, and there were words of the day throughout the week, for example Fuinneamh (energy), cruthaitheach (creative), Ulchabhán (owl) agus Aerfrioctóir.

Anseo bhí céilí ar an Aoine an 13ú, agus bhí focail an lae i rith na seachtaine, mar shampla Fuinneamh, Cruthaitheach, Ulchabhán agus Aerfrioctóir.



SEANFHOCAIL

Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam.

(a country without language is a country without a soul.)

Is fearr Gaeilge bhriste ná Béarla cliste.

(Broken Irish is better than clever English.)



GRAPHICS & DCG

As the school year comes to an end, the Graphics Department is absolutely delighted with the success of the introduction of Graphics and DCG in Cluny this year. It has been fantastic to see such positive engagement from students, with first years taking part in Graphics classes and Transition Year students participating in the DCG taster module.

Graphics is the Junior Cycle version of DCG (Design and Communication Graphics) at Leaving Certificate level. Previously known as Technical Graphics or Technical Drawing, the subject helps students develop the skills of manual drafting, problem-solving, spatial awareness, and technical communication. Students learn how to create accurate drawings by hand while also developing an understanding of design and how graphics are used in engineering, architecture, and technology.

The TY DCG taster module allowed students to experience Design and Communication Graphics, where they explored 3D modelling, design processes, and modern graphical communication methods used in engineering, architecture, construction, and technology industries.

It has also been great to see strong interest from TY students in taking DCG as a Leaving Certificate subject. This will mark the first year in Cluny that DCG will be offered as a Leaving Certificate subject choice, which is a very exciting milestone for the school.

Graphics and DCG are extremely valuable subjects for students considering future careers in technology, engineering, architecture, animation, product design, and many other creative and technical fields. We are very proud of the enthusiasm and effort shown by all students this year and look forward to continuing to grow the subjects even further in the years ahead.



HOME ECONOMICS

Culinary arts is an amazing subject as it teaches you skills for life such as cooking, food preparation, teamwork, and creativity. It also helped me learn about my diet and healthy eating options.

During the year, students get the opportunity to prepare a variety of dishes, improve their confidence in the kitchen, and develop practical skills that will benefit them in everyday life.

Most importantly, it encourages responsibility, organisation, and communication while allowing students to express themselves creatively. Transition Year Culinary Arts is a valuable experience that combines learning with fun and prepares students for the future.

I enjoyed everything we made this year, but my favourite thing was the chocolate biscuit in the shape of a Christmas pudding for Christmas.

I found TY culinary arts very helpful, and I learned skills that I will use in my future, such as hygiene and safety in the kitchen, and how to prepare food safely and most enjoyable

Doireann Dowdall





Agri-Aware Farm Walk and Talk at UCD Lyons Estate Research Farm – TY Trip

Transition Year Agricultural Science students had the opportunity to attend the “Farm Walk and Talk Event” at the UCD Lyons Estate this March, an engaging and educational day that brought classroom learning to life. Set on one of Ireland’s leading agricultural research farms, the trip offered students valuable insight into modern farming practices, sustainability, and the wide range of careers available within the agricultural sector.

Throughout the day, students rotated through a series of interactive stations, each focusing on a different aspect of agriculture. One of the most popular stops was the dairy station, where students learned about milk production, herd management, and the technology used in modern milking systems. Experts explained how data and innovation are shaping the efficiency and sustainability of dairy farming in Ireland today.

The sheep station proved to be another favourite and provided an overview of flock management, lambing practices, and the role sheep farming plays in rural Ireland. We were lucky enough on the day to see a ewe give birth right in front of us, as well as all other the other recently born lambs running about.

Students also had the chance to learn about grassland management, which is central to Irish agriculture. This station highlighted soil health, grass growth, and sustainable land use, helping students appreciate the science behind productive farming systems.



In addition, there were stations dedicated to agricultural technology and environmental sustainability. Students were introduced to cutting-edge research on reducing emissions, improving biodiversity, and tackling climate challenges within the industry. These sessions emphasised the evolving nature of agriculture and the importance of innovation in securing its future.

Beyond the practical learning, the event also showcased the wide range of agricultural science and related courses available at UCD. Students were given information about degree options, career pathways, and the opportunities that studying agriculture can offer, both in Ireland and abroad.

Overall, the Farm Walk and Talk Event was a highly worthwhile experience. It not only reinforced key concepts from the classroom but also broadened students’ understanding of the agricultural industry as a dynamic and essential sector. Trips like this play a vital role in inspiring the next generation and highlighting the importance of agriculture in Ireland’s economy, environment, and society.

Such was the success of both the trip and the TY taster module in Agricultural Science that Cluny will now offer Agricultural Science as a Leaving Certificate subject, with the first students beginning the course in September 2026.



Sci Fest



SciFest

SciFest is an annual fair held at Cluny. It is an opportunity for the Second Years to present their CBAs to the rest of the school and potentially win a prize for all of their hard work! This year we were also joined by primary school kids from two local schools. All of the students were given an opportunity to vote for their favourite project, and then the judges chose the other winners. Thanks so much to everyone in the science department at Cluny for organising this fair, in particular to Ms Matthews for all her hard work.



SciFest winners

SciFest best project award - Zita Carry + Aoibheann Dowdall.

SciFest runner-up best project award - Catherine Wen

SciFest 20th anniversary award - Aoibheann Cardan.

Keenova STEM excellence award - Feiya Wang.

Eirgrid cleaner climate awards - Maya Dasilva, Kate Byrne, Eva Healy.

SciFest presentation award - Emily Rice.

SciFest student choice - Madison Kavanagh



SciFest

SciFest Success for Our 2nd Year Science Students

Our 2nd Year Science students had an outstanding year as they showcased their curiosity, creativity, and scientific skills through their participation in SciFest. Following on from their Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs), all students took part in our in-house SciFest@School, which was held in March—coinciding with our Whole-School Evaluation (WSE).

The event proved to be a highlight of the school year in Science. The concert hall was transformed into a vibrant exhibition space filled with innovative investigations and engaging displays. Our students confidently presented their work, demonstrating not only their scientific understanding but also their enthusiasm for discovery. The timing of SciFest@School during the Whole-School Evaluation provided a wonderful opportunity to showcase the high quality of teaching and learning in our Science department. Both the WSE inspectors and the official SciFest judges were deeply impressed by the standard of projects and the professionalism of the students.

Adding to the excitement of the day, students from two local Primary Schools visited the exhibition. Our 2nd Year students rose to the occasion, acting as knowledgeable guides and inspiring role models. They shared their projects with enthusiasm, sparking curiosity and encouraging younger pupils to explore the world of science. It was a fantastic example of community engagement and peer learning in action.

Following the success of the in-house event, nine outstanding projects were selected to progress to the Regional SciFest@College, held in TU Tallaght. This was a significant achievement and a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students.

We are especially proud to celebrate the success of several students who received awards at the regional level:

- Zita and Aoibheann – Winners in the Junior Physics category
- Kate – Winner in the Junior Chemistry category
- Feiya – Winner in the Intermediate Physics category
-

These achievements reflect not only individual excellence but also the strong culture of scientific inquiry that continues to grow within our school.

Congratulations to all of our 2nd Year students on their participation, enthusiasm, and impressive achievements. Special thanks to Ms Matthews and Mr Crampton for guiding the 2nd Years through their CBAs and to Ms Matthews for organising this year's SciFest events. We look forward to even more Cluny success and innovation in the years ahead!



MUSIC

It's been another busy and productive year for the Music Dept and choir. Despite the choir being mainly comprised of 3rd and 1st years we are thrilled with the whopping total of 60 students in the choir this year! The choir rehearse during lunchtime and after school on Tuesdays 345-420pm. They are busy straight away at the start of the school year with the opening school Mass and the open evening. The open evening is a great chance for soloists to share their talents and also gives the choir a goal to perfect some new repertoire.

Next up in the calendar is the Christmas Fair, which is now merged with the carol service. Set in the foyer of the school with a magical acoustic, the intimate setting really makes for a special evening of song.

January is always an exceptionally busy month for the Music Dept with the TY musical, which this year was the fantastic, colourful and energetic "Back to the 80's". We were delighted to have a great group of singers from 3rd and 5th join the pit choir which greatly boosted the choral sound.

March saw the choir head into the Helix DCU for the Emmanuel Concert. It's a long but great day out with our inaugural pitstop for coffee before a morning rehearsal, followed by a tech rehearsal at the Helix and then the show in the evening. We also had two soloists representing Cluny.

In May this year, the Music Dept introduced "House Karaoke" which was a great success. It took place across three Tuesdays, where students sang to win points for their house. The winning house was announced on the last day. Not only was it a competitive event for House points but it provided a bit of entertainment and fun at lunchtime on Tuesdays.

We ended the academic year with our annual trip to the Bord Gais to see the amazing musical 'Waitress' which the choir loved. It was a great evening out and as always the highlight is meeting the cast afterwards and sing songs on the bus home!

We had an exciting musical reveal to the current 3rd years for next years musical and to shrieks of excitement it was announced that is is.... drumroll..... GREASE!



BACK TO THE 80'S



Our musical this year was "Back to the 80s". This was chosen as it is upbeat and has lots of dance routines, which suits our high-energy year group.

Back to the 80s follows 17-year-old Corey Palmer during his senior year at William Ocean High School in the late 1980s. Narrated by his adult self, the plot focuses on Corey's quest to win over his neighbor, Tiffany Houston, while competing with popular bully Michael Feldman, amid 80s pop hits.

The cast consisted of all the girls in our year, as well as a handful of boys from Blackrock College.



Auditions were super tense. Everyone was working hard preparing for them and they went amazingly. everyone did well and got great parts for the musical. After the auditions, we got straight to work and started rehearsing for the musical.

The musical truly was the highlight of TY. We had great fun rehearsing and learning all of our dances. It was an amazing opportunity to make new friends and we really bonded as a year group.



Our Cast

Tiffany Houston	Emily Woods
Cyndi Gibson	Sadie Grant
Mel Easton	Tifera Ngwenya
Kim Easton	Faye Bennett
Eileen Reagan	Rebecca Charles
Laura Wilde	Amélie Hetherington
Debbie Fox	Amy Dickson
Fergie McFerrin	Sadhbh Dowling
Ms.Brannigan	Abigail Coburn



Butlers Factory / Croke Park Trip

Butlers Chocolate Factory

On February 6th 2026, our TY students went on a trip to Butlers Chocolate Factory in Dublin 17. On this trip they got an in depth tour of the chocolate factory. They learnt about all of the many jobs within the chocolate factory and the story behind Butlers and its origins. They learnt about where Butlers came from and the changes it's gone through since its first opening. They then got to decorate and take home their own Butlers Chocolate elephants.



Croke Park



On February 6th 2026, our TY students also went on a trip to Croke Park after Butlers Chocolate Factory. On this trip they got a full tour of Croke Park stadium and got to learn all about the history of Croke Park and of GAA. They were given a tour of the whole stadium, the changing rooms where players have their team talk before the match and the tunnel they walk out from. They were given a history lesson on Bloody Sunday and the history behind The Hogan Stand.



Speakers in TV



Law Talk

We had some remarkably interesting speakers talk about their experiences with law and the various categories that come under it. We learned about things such as sports law, criminal law and employment law.

It was a great insight into what law is all about and all the things that come with it. All the speakers were interactive with quizzes and question in between to keep the viewers interested.

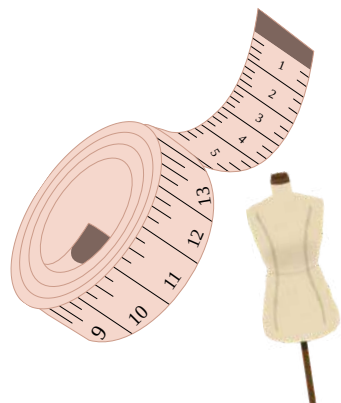
The talk taught us that there is not just one job opportunity but many under distinct categories and sections.



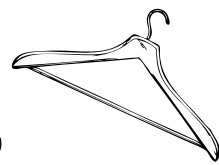
Vincent Lavery

Vincent Lavery is a retired secondary school teacher who taught U.S. Government and Economics in the States. He is an active member of the United States of America Democratic Party. He worked with Senator Robert F Kennedy's campaign for president in 1968. He told us all about his life and experiences and we learned more about politics.





JUNK KOUTURE



Some of our TY (Transition Year) students took part in Junk Kouture, where they were challenged to design and create a dress using recycled materials. The aim of the project was not only to showcase creativity but also to raise awareness about environmental issues and the importance of reusing waste.

The process began with brainstorming ideas. Students researched themes, current fashion trends, and environmental topics to inspire their designs. Once they had a concept, they sketched their ideas and planned what materials they would need. Instead of traditional fabrics, they collected items such as plastic bags, old newspapers, bottle caps, cardboard, and scrap fabric.

FASHION SHOW

After weeks of hard work and creativity, some students were given the exciting opportunity to take part in the Junk Kouture competition. This was a huge achievement, as their designs were selected to be showcased on a larger stage.

The experience was both exciting and challenging. In the lead-up to the event, we had to perfect their outfits, making final adjustments and ensuring everything was secure and ready for the runway. There was a strong sense of teamwork, as designers, models, and helpers all worked together to bring the vision to life.



RUBBISH FILM FESTIVAL



Our TY (Transition Year) students took part in Junk Kouture, where they were challenged to design and create a dress using recycled materials. The aim of the project was not only to showcase creativity but also to raise awareness about environmental issues and the importance of reusing waste.



A selection of TY students won the Impact Award for their film "It's on You" in the Rubbish Film Festival last month. The goal was to make a one minute film that tied in with SDG 12, responsible consumption, and production. Our TYs focused on fast fashion and the human cost behind the scenes of people having to work in sweat shops. [Link to movie here](#)



TY Barista course

Brewing Skills for the Real World

As TY students take their first steps into the art of coffee, thanks to a Barista course, they're gaining the confidence and experience that will carry them into their summer jobs



Coffee Break

We learnt how to craft great coffee, alongside perfecting our barista skills, we're developing an understanding of essential health and safety practices required to work in restaurant kitchens. From maintaining hygiene standards to handling equipment safely, we're building real-world knowledge that goes far beyond the classroom.



As the day wound down and the final lesson began, the focus shifted from making the perfect cup to an equally important skill—how to clean a coffee machine properly. The day was so much fun that by the end I was so tired and had decided that I no longer wanted to see or drink a coffee for a good while. As my friends and I made our own way back home with the sun slowly going down on our backs and Dublin city coming alive at night, we can confidently say that our coffee-making skills are great.

Subhi Nolan

DJ WORKSHOP



'Next Up Art Collectives' showed the TY students how to use a DJ controller, how to add music and beats together, and how to keep the tempo. They had a lot of fun learning what being a DJ is all about and how it all works.

They also got to learn the background of the company and the job opportunities for being a DJ.

We got to share our music creations to the class and got feedback from our peers. We had an absolute blast getting to experience what it is like to be a DJ.



WORK EXPERIENCE

9th - 13th February 2026

I did my work experience from the 9th to the 13th of February. I arrived every day at 10:00 and finished at 14:00. On the first day I was a little nervous but excited. To start I was observing the other employees and how they washed and dried the dogs properly. Then I tried some things myself. As the days progressed and I got more confident, I was able to wash and dry the dogs all by myself. After each dog was finished, I put the dog in the crate to wait for their owner, and I swept the floor. I was sad to leave but super grateful for the opportunity to do my work experience there.

Abigail Frawley



Matheson

For work experience week 2, I went to Sams barbers in Cabinteely. I started on the 9th of February and ended on the 13th of February. On the first day i was kind of nervous about going in because it was a new environment but after a few minutes I settled in and i was shown around the shop. I started by sweeping the floors and watching the barber's cut hair. I learned a lot of new skills like customer service, time management and responsibility. I really enjoyed this work experience and enjoyed my time there.

Brooke Corrigan Kane



For week two of work experience I was in TUD Grangegorman, School of Biological, Health, and Sports Sciences department. During the week, I shadowed lab technicians and sat in on student lab classes. I did everything from cleaning labs and equipment to looking at my own cheek cells under a microscope! I really enjoyed my week and found it extremely interesting. I most enjoyed learning about haematology, the study of blood. I looked at various blood samples under the microscope and tested blood samples to find their "ABO group". This was a great work experience programme for anyone interested in science, and

I would highly recommend it.

Sarah Kate Merrigan 4L





Transition Year students from St Joseph of Cluny recently returned from a fantastic overnight trip to Killarney, filled with fun, friendship and unforgettable experiences. The trip provided a wonderful opportunity for the girls to bond, explore, and make lasting memories together.

A particular highlight of the visit was a special invitation to spend an afternoon with the Transition Year students of St Brigid's Presentation Secondary School, Killarney. The warm welcome extended by the Killarney students set the tone for a truly enjoyable experience. Students from both schools quickly got chatting and immersed themselves in a variety of activities, including lively volleyball matches, energetic Zumba sessions, and plenty of fun dancing. The atmosphere was one of friendship, laughter, and shared enjoyment, and the St Joseph of Cluny students were delighted to be included in such a welcoming school community.

Beyond this memorable visit, the trip itinerary was packed with exciting activities. The students enjoyed a scenic jaunt car tour around the beautiful surroundings of Ross Castle and the Lakes of Killarney, taking in the stunning natural scenery. There was also a murder mystery treasure hunt that brought out everyone's problem-solving skills, along with a relaxing cinema trip and some well-earned shopping time.

The trip to Killarney was a great success, with students thoroughly enjoying every moment. Experiences like these highlight the value of Transition Year in fostering new friendships, building confidence, and creating lifelong memories.

A huge thank you to St Brigid's Presentation Secondary School for their hospitality, and especially to TY Coordinator Ber O'Connor for organising such a warm and engaging visit.

C O'Riordan





5th yr Spanish Trip

We went on a school trip to Andalucía in the south of Spain! We visited the cities of Seville, Cádiz and Jerez, where we stayed over the course of a week.

In Seville, we discovered elements that normally go unnoticed: the logic of the patios, the relationship between shade and ventilation, traditional materials, and how the city adapts to the heat. We also explored examples of contemporary architecture (Setas de Sevilla). We visited the Alcázar palace complex, Santa Cruz/ Cathedral neighbourhood, and Plaza de España.)



In Jerez we visited the Royal Andalusian School of Equestrian Art – which included the stables, tack room, training arena and 2 museums, in the morning. We stepped into the heart of Jerez's winemaking heritage with a guided tour of the historic Tio Pepe winery in the afternoon .

In Cádiz we visited the whitewashed villages of Cádiz province (Arcos and Vejer de la Frontera) and El Palmar beach. In Cádiz city, we visited the Cathedral, the Local market and La Caleta beach. Overall, we had a great trip and feel like our Spanish has improved!

TY

PRIZEGIVING

Personal Growth:

Amy Dickson, Doireann Dowdall, Rebecca Charles

Enthusiasm and Dedication / Helping Others:

Lily Cummins, Sadhbh Dowling, Abigail Coburn

Active Participation x 3

Miranda Navarro, Sadhbh Dowling, Tara Burns

Civic Engagement:

Doireann Dowdall, Eibhlin Costello

International Student

Mar Cano Garcia

Junk Kouture:

Robyn Doyle

Culinary Arts

Roise Cullen

Enterprise:

Sarah Kate Merrigan

Achievement Folder

Miranda Navarro



SPORTS



GAA

Cluny has seen a fantastic level of interest in Gaelic Football this year, especially from our first-year students. Training took place every Wednesday from 1:30pm to 3:00pm with Mr. Hilliard, with students showing great enthusiasm and commitment throughout the year.

It was especially encouraging to welcome students who had never played Gaelic Football before. The sessions gave students a great opportunity to learn and enjoy one of our national sports in a fun and supportive environment while also developing teamwork, fitness, and new skills.

We are extremely proud of the effort and positive attitude shown by all involved and are already looking forward to growing our Gaelic Football team even more next year.

Mr Hilliard

BADMINTON



It has been a very successful Badminton season in Cluny in terms of participation and achievement. From September to March, the numbers attending practice on Thursdays and Fridays have increased year on year. It's great to see a full Sports hall with so many students taking part and developing their skills.

We had 6 teams entered in the Dublin leagues – two at U 19, two at U 16 and two at U 14 including a boys team for the first time. Both U 19 teams reached the knockout stages, with the As progressing all the way to the final. Despite coming up just short against Mount Temple in the Dublin final, they qualified for the Leinster Final winning two out of their three matches. Well done to Cordelia, Roxanna, Eimear and Ciara on their achievements this year.

Both of the U16 teams also reached the knockout stages of the Dublin leagues. The Bs were narrowly beaten 4-2 by Holy Faith Clontarf in the quarterfinal, while the As reached the semifinal and just missed out on a place in the final. Their match against Sutton Park was tied at 3-3, and when the total points were added up Cluny were narrowly beaten by 2 points.

The 14s showed up in great numbers every week, and both teams competed well in their respective leagues. With so many players new to the game, it was refreshing to see their progress and development from start to the end of the season. This augurs well for the future.

Congratulations to all our participants this year, and I look forward to seeing you return to Badminton in the next academic year.

M Seymour



ATHLETICS

I say this every year! Athletics is too short a season. Development of basic running technique, balance, agility and speed starts with working on becoming more of an athlete.

We had a good turnout of girls participating in track and field events. It was wonderful to see the 1st and 2nd years students coming for athletics. Hopefully, it will stay that way all the way to 6th year!! That's it!! Stay active keep moving and have a fantastic summer holiday.

Mr Randolph



BASKETBALL

It has been a memorable year for Cluny basketball teams, especially with the introduction of our 1st-year boys basketball team. All teams qualified for the quarter-finals and semi-finals! There's a lot of talent in our 1st and 2nd yr team, and it will be exciting to watch them develop. I hope that as many of our students as possible try to attend a Basketball camp or join a club. I'm wishing all the basketballers a safe and enjoyable summer.

Mr Randolph and Ms Matthews



HOCKEY



1st year girls

1st-year girls started playing 11-a-side full-pitch matches after Christmas. They had 3 league games, recording 1 win against St Joseph's of Lucan 2-0, while losing to a very good Mt Anville team 3-0 and 1-0 to Muckcross



1st year boys

Although we didn't have enough numbers to have a league team, it was a great second hand of the team for our 1st ever boys hockey team. Their season ended with a half-pitch tournament hosted by us, where they finished in 2nd place

Minor girls

The minor girls had a strong finish to their league season with a great 2-0 win over Loreto Foxrock, but lost 3-1 to St Killians, meaning they just lost out on a ¼ final spot in the league



Junior girls

The junior girls needed a result in their last league game vs Our Ladys grove to give themselves a chance of a semi-final spot, and did so with a great team performance to win 3-0. Unfortunately, it meant that they, East Glendalough, and Drogheda Grammar all finished on level points, which meant a playoff for the semifinal spot. The team gave it their all, but unfortunately lost in their playoff to East Glendalough

Senior girls

Having played some great hockey but not getting the results their efforts deserved before Christmas, the senior team had a great 2-2 draw against Tullamore after being 2-0 down, while also winning 6-0 against St Columbus



SPORTS DAY

HOUSES COMPETE FOR GLORY!

Our annual Sports Day took place on Friday 8th May. Luckily the weather was kind, and the day began in sunshine. Zumba teacher Collette ably supported by the 5th Year House Captains led a whole school warmup on the Hockey pitch. Students wore their House t-shirts which added great colour to the day. Following the warmup up, each year group accompanied by House Captains and teachers then made their way to Kilbogget Park for the Charity 5km walk/jog. This year the 6th Year Charity is Breast Cancer Ireland.

After each year group had completed their 5km, they returned to Cluny to begin the second part of the day. But not before some ice-cream was had, organised by the 6th Years in aid of Down Syndrome Ireland

The novelty events in the afternoon, along with the barbeque, occupied the students, as they competed for the House Cup, awarded to the House that wins the most points on Sports Day. Hotly contested events such as Sack Races and Egg and Spoon Races were the order of the day, with the winning House to be announced.

Thanks to the teachers for adjudicating, and an enjoyable day was had by all.

M Seymour





CHARITY



Pink Day

THINK PINK!! We had a fabulous day with the whole school dressing in pink to raise awareness of Breast Cancer and all the work that the charity does.



Table Quiz



What a humdinger of an evening with so much money raised! A huge thanks to all involved and Brady's in Shankill for their continued support!

Cheque Time!!!

We were honoured to be able to hand over a cheque for €4000 to Breast Cancer Ireland. A big well done to the school community for all their support



CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Chinese New Year dance party

During the celebration for the Chinese New Year, students took part in doing a fun 'just dance' video, showing off their new dancing skills.

Students were given the chance to learn how to use chopsticks. With their newly learnt skills, they participated in a bean picking competition!

Painting with Ink brushes

Towards the end, pupils were shown how to properly use a Chinese calligraphy pen and got to create their own fun designs.



Making lanterns

Pupils took part in making paper lanterns, using just paper, scissors and glue, making cute Chinese New Year lanterns to keep for themselves.



International Day

Many cultures – One Community

On the 6th of May 2026, we organised a special celebration for our international students. The students from different countries, such as China, Russia, South Korea and Spain, created some brief presentations about their home country or city, talking about the location, the customs, the places and the food.

Ms. Beamish, Dr. Paz and Ms. Siliauskas helped us to organise this event. Ms. Siliauskas created some games to learn about the languages and how to recognise them quickly.

An example of one of these games that was organised is the date in different parts of the world. In Ireland we write day/month/year, whereas in the USA they write month/day/year and in China they write year/month/day.

This shows how diverse cultures can be and that we must be able to communicate with people to understand one another. Overall, this event was beneficial to both the student listening and the ones presenting.

Julia Guterrez

Haigh! Përshëndetje! 你好! Pwpl! Salam! Kai
anne! হাই! Zdravo! Здравей! Hola! Kumusta!
Salute! Bok! Ahoj! Hej! Hoi! Saluton! Tere!
Ola! கவிரகமம்! Hallo! Γεια! હાય! Alo! Sannu!
lyob zoo! Szia! Hæ! Ndewo! Haigh! CHAO! ЧА
rawuh! ನಮಸ್ತೆ! Сәлем! සුඛ්! Muraho! 안녕하세요! Me
සයුරි! Sveiki! Salut! Здраво! Salama! ഹായ്!
! नमस्कार! Сайн байнаyy! ഹർലാരി! नमस्ते! Moni!
সাঁ! Oi! চৈ! Привет! Talofa! Здраво! سلام!
Ahoj! Živjo! Haye! ¡Hola! Hai! سلام! Lumela!
!'' Kumusta! Salom! வணக்கம்! Исэнмез!
CHAO! سلام! باغ! !اڙاڙ! MERHABA! Salam! !
!E n l e o! Sawubona! !Nḡn elo! Mholo



International students

1年留学

こんにちは。日本からアイルランドへ一年留学に来ているレナです。

アイルランドに来て最初の数か月は、ダンドークの学校で学んでいました。文化もシステムも日本とは大きく違い、最初は戸惑うことばかりでしたが、その経験があったからこそ、今の学校に来たときの安心感と温かさがより強く感じられました。

1月にこの学校へ転入してからは、先生も生徒も本当にフレンドリーで、すぐに学校生活に溶け込むことができました。分からないことがあれば気軽に聞ける環境があり、留学生にとってとても心強い場所です。

この学校の魅力は、自分から行動する力が自然と身につくこと。

日本にはないTY (Transition Year) では、活動や職業体験など、自分で選び、挑戦し、動く機会がたくさんあります。行動するのが得意ではなかった私でも、ここでは一歩踏み出す勇気を育てることができました。

アイルランドに来た当初は英語の発音の違いに苦戦し、会話についていけないこともありましたが、今では日常会話ができるほど成長しました。

「間違えてもいい。まずは話してみる」この大切な姿勢を、この学校で学びました。

ただ、特定の留学生からのアジア人差別があったので、そこは相談すればよかったかなとも思いますが、それも含めて私の人生を大きく変えた経験となっています。この学校に留学できたことが光栄です。

Translation

Hello, my name is Rena and from Japan as a exchange student.

For the first few months, I was in school in Dundalk. Culture and systems are really different from Japan and confusing at first, but because of that I feel more comfortable in this school.

In Cluny, friends and teachers are really friendly, so I could ask easily to them.

Through TY which does not exist in Japan, there are so many opportunities to do activities, try new challenges, and take action on your own through projects and work experience programs. Even though I was not very confident in taking initiative before, this school helped me gain the courage to step forward.

When I first came to Ireland, I struggled with the differences in English pronunciation and sometimes could not keep up with conversations. However, I have now improved enough to communicate in everyday English.

"It's okay to make mistakes, just try speaking first."

This is one of the most important lessons I learned at this school.

This is the biggest point of this school.

However, there were some discrimination against Asians from certain international students, so I sometimes think I should have talked to teachers. Still, including that experience, studying at this school became a life changing experience for me. It was glad to be able to study abroad at this school.

International students

Переезд

Привет, меня зовут Анна, и я из Украины. Четыре года назад я переехала в Ирландию. В начале мне было очень трудно. Всё было новым: язык, люди, школа и культура. В первые два года я часто чувствовала себя одиноко и растерянно. Я скучала по своему дому, друзьям и особенно по папе, который всё ещё находится в Украине. Иногда было сложно понимать уроки в школе, и я стеснялась говорить по-английски, потому что боялась делать ошибки. Со временем всё начало меняться. Я стала лучше понимать английский и больше разговаривать с одноклассниками. Я поняла, что школа в Ирландии — очень дружелюбное и приятное место. Учителя стараются помогать ученикам, а люди здесь добрые и поддерживающие. Я начала находить новых друзей и чувствовать себя увереннее. Сейчас моя школьная жизнь намного лучше. Мне нравится проводить время с друзьями, учить что-то новое и быть частью школьного сообщества. Конечно, я всё ещё скучаю по своему папе и по жизни в Украине, но Ирландия тоже стала важной частью моей жизни. Жизнь здесь помогла мне стать сильнее и более самостоятельной.

Translation

Hello, my name is Anna, and I am from Ukraine. Four years ago I moved to Ireland. At the beginning it was very difficult for me. Everything was new: the language, the people, the school, and the culture. During the first two years I often felt lonely and confused. I missed my home, my friends, and especially my dad, who is still in Ukraine. Sometimes it was hard to understand the lessons at school, and I was shy about speaking English because I was afraid of making mistakes.

Over time, everything began to change. I started to understand English better and talk more with my classmates. I realized that school in Ireland is a very friendly and pleasant place. Teachers try to help students, and people here are kind and supportive. I began to make new friends and feel more confident.

Now my school life is much better. I enjoy spending time with my friends, learning new things, and being part of the school community. Of course, I still miss my dad and my life in Ukraine, but Ireland has also become an important part of my life. Living here has helped me become stronger and more independent.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES



GREEN SCHOOLS

This term, the Green Schools Committee have focused on increasing awareness to save valuable resources in school. We can all do with a reminder to turn off- whether its the tap, the light or the heat before opening a window. All signage around the school has been upgraded and replaced with beautiful art work from Rosa Troughton in Fifth Year.

Cluny also participated in the Let's Fix Fashion National catwalk event in Cashel, Co Tipperary. Transition Year students modelled their stunning Junk Kouture costumes as well as upcycled outfits and pre-loved finds. Well done to all students involved.



PUBLIC SPEAKING



STUDENT COUNCIL

2025 - 2026

We organised a whole school fundraiser event for Pieta House following a loss in our school community. Musically talented students from all years got to perform for the school in a concert-style event. A professional singer from the local area performed alongside the Cluny students, who were singing, playing piano, guitar, violin. We raised approx. 500 euro for Pieta House.



We organised communication with the local Primary school, Dalkey School Project. We met with their student council and played games and provided snacks to get to know each other before we meet with them again to talk about more serious issue i.e. Bi Cineálta policy and SNA issues in Ireland. We hope to build a stronger relationship between the two councils in the future.

To promote a positive community and to encourage kindness and empathy amongst students and staff we asked if people would like to make a photo wall - of us in Cluny - as very young individuals. Think about who you are talking to, what you are saying, before you speak! We also ran a bracelet making workshop alongside ABC to promote Bi Cinealta initiative.



We also have many plans for next year. We intend to create surveys for the student body based on school uniforms and other issues raised this year. We also plan to get involved in Empathy in School in Ireland initiative. As well as all this, we are trying to build a stronger relationship with the Parents Association.

School Library — Year in Review

Reading, Learning, and Belonging



A bright, busy year in the library

Each month, the library became a fresh space for reading, learning, and discovery. Students found new displays, joined activities, joined workshops and talks, used study space, and enjoyed quiet moments in the middle of a busy school day.

Displays that connected

Books linked with school life and the wider world. Students explored Halloween reads, Follow the Star Christmas Reading Challenge, Study System, Catholic Schools Week, World Book Day, International Day, and many more. Displays helped students discover new books, share ideas, and feel part of the library.

Activities students enjoyed

Students took part in book hunts, reading passports, quizzes, games, and creative challenges. The Halloween Tic Tack Toe, Study System Maze, Story Character Fortune Cards, and Brainwave Challenge gave students a fun way to read, think, and work together.

Events and support

The library supported workshops, careers guidance, competitions, student voice, guest speakers, year-group visits, and events. Students used it for learning, advice, teamwork, and quiet study, building confidence, curiosity, and community.

A space to be. A place for everyone.

Most of all, the library gave students a place to belong. Some came to read. Some came to study. Others joined in, asked questions, or simply found a calm corner. It is a space to read, think, explore, and grow.

“A reader lives a thousand lives.”

2026

**ST. JOSEPH OF CLUNY
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

OPEN EVENING

SEPT 24TH

**MEET THE STUDENTS, THE
STAFF, THE ENERGY, THE
COMMUNITY**

**COME AND FIND OUT
WHAT MAKES OUR
SCHOOL A COMMUNITY**

5-8PM

