St.Joseph of Cluny

Winter 2025

As I write, the school is looking very festive, exams have been completed and both students and teachers are looking forward to a well-deserved break.

Of course, the Christmas edition of our newsletter is an integral part of any Cluny Christmas, and I would like to congratulate Ms. Beamish and the TY editorial team on a superb production. I hope you enjoy the wide range of student work included. Another essential part of the Cluny Christmas is the Christmas fair and Christmas carol service.

It has been another busy term at the school. Once again, our Leaving Certificate students did Cluny proud, with a tremendous set of results. It was wonderful to see them enjoying their Debs Ball in September, and to see a great many of them back for our Prizegiving ceremony.
We were also delighted with the results obtained by the Junior Cycle class of 2025. The students received their awards at our recent prizegiving ceremony. We look forward to our students receiving their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement in the spring. Congratulations to our students and many thanks to their teachers for all their hard work.
As you are aware I spent six weeks recovering from knee surgery in October and November and I am now on the road to recovery. Many thanks to Deputy Principal, Ms. Byrne, teaching staff and our Administration team for all their help in keeping everything moving smoothly in my absence.

The biggest news story of the year was the move to Co-Education on a phased basis, starting with the intake of boys and girls for First Year in September. We were delighted to welcome the new boys and girls of First Year who started with us in September 2025. Special thanks to Ms. McEvoy who helped to make the transition from primary school to secondary school so seamless the students.

As our school continues to grow in number, this necessitates new development projects on our campus. On a practical note, we have managed to secure significant funding to overhaul an antiquated and creaking boiler and heating system. More importantly, I am pleased to announce that we have been granted planning permission to build a new Art Room at the front of the school and that building will commence in
Spring 2026. The Art Room will be dedicated to my predecessor Ms. Mary White, RIP. A Ms White was a long-serving teacher and Principal in St. Joseph of Cluny, who gave a great deal to the school, so it is fitting that we name our new building in her honour.

As ever, we have many new and ongoing initiatives at St. Joseph of Cluny. This year we have made the move to be a mobile phone free school. In January 2025 we brought in our 'Yondr' pouches. The absence of mobile phones has helped students to engage with each other and improve participation in activities. Students spend more time engaging with one another, which is so beneficial to their wellbeing.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy and and holy Christmas. Christmas gives us time to focus on the important things such as spending time with our friends and families and allows reflect on the goodness of the human spirit.

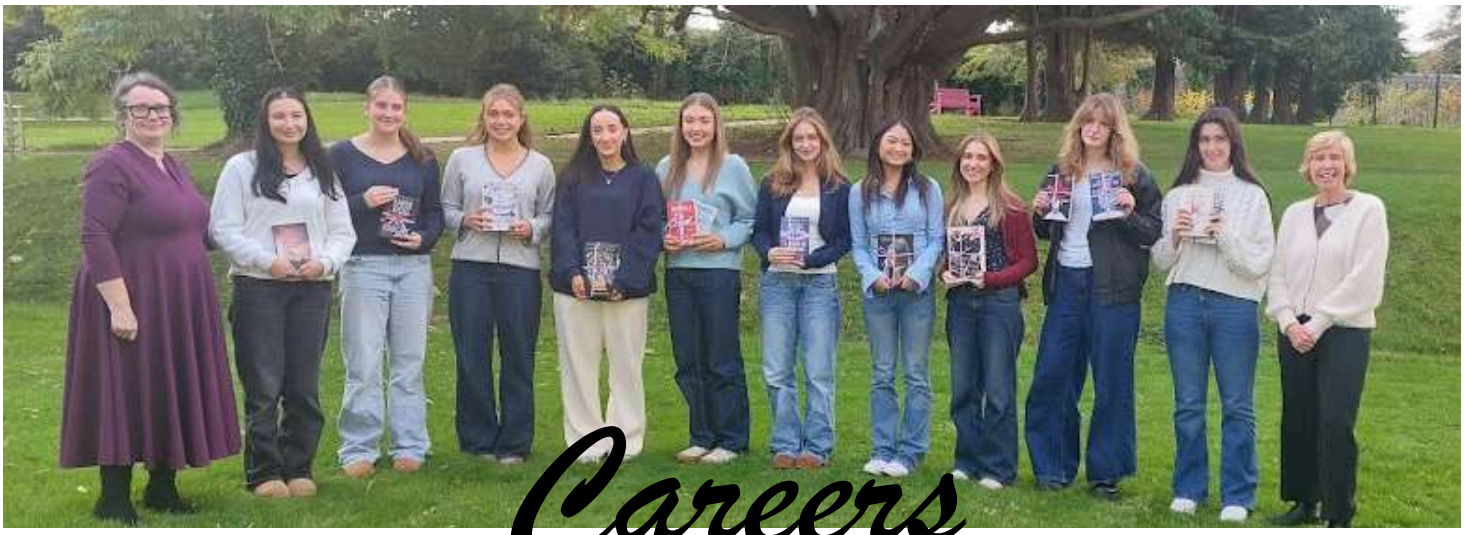
Ben Healy

OPEN DAY 2025

Cluny Open Day happens once a year and it is always a date to save in your calendars! From our own mini Blood Brothers productions in Room 13, to exciting experiments in the chemistry lab! You will never walk into an empty room on our Open Day. Our wonderful choir welcomed everyone to our school with beautiful singing in the foyer. This was followed by Mr. Healy, talking to parents about what school looks like for a Cluny student.

A quick trip around the school revealed that Room 1 was filled with various goodies, testing whether you could distinguish between famous brands and own brands. Rooms 2, 3 and 4 were our History, Maths and Physics, where Cluny students took you through the different curricula. Room 6 had our Business teachers explaining the Leaving Cert and Junior Cert curriculum. Room 7 had our Geography students creating our own mini volcanoes! Room 8 and 9 our language rooms, got you to taste the delicious cuisine from France and Spain. Not to mention the yummy baking happening in the Home Economics rooms.

-Emily Woods



Careers

The Guidance Department has enjoyed a vibrant and engaging first term, packed with events, workshops, college visits, and career exploration for all year groups. Students from all years have taken full advantage of the opportunities provided, helping them prepare for life beyond school.

We began the year with a strong academic and career focus as all 5th and 6th Year students attended Higher Options, gaining valuable information about courses, colleges, and future pathways. Students also visited the World Skills exhibition, an inspirational showcase of trades, apprenticeships, and innovative industries. Both events sparked great interest and discussion among students as they start shaping their next steps.

It has been a term of travel and exploration, with students attending open days at UCD, Trinity College Dublin, TU Dublin, and the University of Galway—on that unforgettable windy day in October! These visits provided students with first-hand experience of campus life, courses, and facilities, with further college trips planned for the new year.

We were delighted to host several guest speakers throughout the term, including professionals in science and STEM, economics, human resource management, and public service careers. Each speaker offered practical insights into their fields, helping students better understand the skills, qualifications, and opportunities involved. More guest speakers are planned for next term.

Our study skills workshops proved to be a major highlight, with students engaging enthusiastically in sessions designed to build confidence, improve organisation, and develop effective learning strategies. Many have already applied these skills as they prepared for upcoming exams.

All 6th Year students have now completed their individual guidance appointments, discussing CAO options, PLC courses, apprenticeships, scholarships, and a range of career pathways. Students are currently finalising their CAO choices, and PLC applications will open in January. We are also preparing for a visit to Blackrock College of Further Education for their open day in the new year. A special highlight this term was a visit from the Defence Forces, who provided a fascinating insight into the wide variety of careers available within the military.

Transition Year students have been fully engaged in their module, "Discovering You and Your Future Pathways," which has included interest inventories, values and strengths exploration, an introduction to college applications, and career research activities. Students also produced updated CVs and completed their work experience placements, returning with brilliant stories, new skills, and valuable lessons from the world of work.

As we wrap up a busy term, I would like to wish all students and families a very Happy Christmas. Wishing you all peace and happiness this Christmas and into the New Year.
Guidance Department

DESTINATONS CLASS OF 2025

600+	**8%**
500+	43%
400+	32%
300+	14%

University College Dublin
Science x4
Nursing x2
Commerce
Social Science
Human Nutrition
Law
Economics
Sustainability
Psychology
Sports and Exercise Management
Technological University Dublin
Business Management x2
Human Resource Management
Business and Law
Sports and Leisure Management x 2
Biomedical and molecular diagnostics
Music

DCU
Athletic Therapy and Training
Primary school teaching

Trinity College Dublin
General Nursing
BESS

IADT
Graphic Design
New Media Studies

Blackrock College of Further Education
Applied Psychology x 3

Bow Street Academy
Acting

University of Amsterdam
Business Administration.

Gap Year
1 student

GEOGRAPHY

The third years had the wonderful opportunity of going on an academic trip to Killiney beach. They learned about how waves worked and the outcomes of longshore drift. They had a scavenger hunt during the journey there and the winners got a prize. Overall, the trip was very enjoyable and they were able to refresh their knowledge on physical geography.

6th and 5th yr Ecology trip to Lullymore, Co. Kildare as part of the Leaving Certificate course.

Home Ecomonics

First year Home Economics

In 1st yr Home Economics we made Christmas decorations! We learned different types of stitches before we started, then in our double class we practised all the stiches. Some of our bakes were Halloween cookies, cheese scones and even a spice bag! We baked every second week, so the week before, we learnt about what we were going to bake. We work in twos; it's so much fun baking with friends. We also made gingerbread cookies for our Christmas bake! A few weeks prior we learned about hygiene and safety. By Guiliana Cronnelly

This year we have made red velvet cupcakes, Halloween cupcakes, spaghetti bolognese and chicken curry. We have also made gingerbread people. It was so fun, Ms. Valentine put on Christmas music. We gave our spare gingerbread people to our classmates, and they were really happy. It was a great way to end home economics for the Christmas break. By Aoibheann Carolan

Third year home economics

This year we started with cooking a chicken and broccoli pasta bake, followed by homemade burgers and spicy wedges, chicken goujons wraps, and finished up the first half term with pùca brownies for Halloween. After coming back from our mid-term break, we cooked chicken satay skewers, then a pizza, pasta dish, and finally finishing the first term with a festive chocolate biscuit cake, decorated to look like a Christmas cake with fondant icing and Christmas decorations.

By Kyla Harford

In the 5th year this year we have done a mixture of hard work and fun bakes. In between chapters, we have managed to squeeze in time in the kitchen. At Halloween, we all baked different themed treats, some examples being spider cookies, pumpkin spiced cupcakes and pumpkin cake pops. We started our food journals for our Leaving Cert project and completed our first cookery; we made spaghetti bolognese in line with healthy eating guidelines for older people to have healthy ageing. By Victoria Mdimela

CSPE

As a group of third-year students, we decided to organise a mock presidential election for our CSPE CBA. Our group included me, Juliet Tomkin Beddy, Katie Byrne, Kate Mahon, Aisling Kavanagh, Julia Smialek, Sadeya Safi, and Elisa Sarmad. It was completely planned and organised by us, and we wanted to give our school a fun and educational way to learn about how voting works in Ireland.

We held the event the day before the real Irish presidential election, which made it feel even more real and exciting. The two candidates we focused on were Catherine Connolly and Heather Humphreys. We designed posters for both candidates and hung them all around the school to create a proper campaign atmosphere. Before the voting began, we gave speeches to the whole school explaining who each candidate was and what they stood for. We wanted everyone to make an informed decision, just like in a real election. Every student in the school then got the chance to vote using ballot papers, and we carefully counted up the results afterwards.

I also reached out to local TD Cormac Devlin, who kindly came in to speak to us. He gave an inspiring talk about the importance of voting and why it's such an important part of democracy. It was amazing to hear from someone involved in politics and to understand how our votes can make a difference. Aswell as that I also reached out to both candidates asking them to speak at our school but both responded saying unfortunately they would be to busy to make it.

In the end, Catherine Connolly won our mock election. The whole experience taught us a lot about teamwork, leadership, and how elections actually work. It was such a fun and memorable project, and we were really proud that our group made it all happen As a group of third-year st

Technical Graphics

We are excited to share some fantastic news about our curriculum. Beginning of September, Tech graphics will now be taught in our school, and availableto sit for the Leaving certificate starting in 2028.

Tech graphics has been taught since the start of this school year in August for first and fourth years.

What is tech graphics?

Tech Graphics combines technical drawing, digital design, and visual communication into one dynamic subject. Students will find out how ideas are shown visually from engineering blueprints and architectural plans.

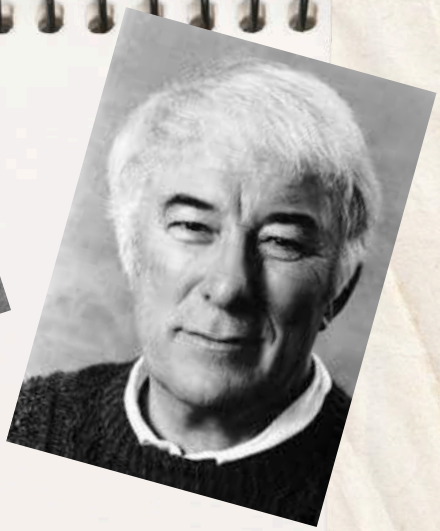
So far, the 1st year girls and boys have been trying out new drawings with the new tech graphics teacher, Mr. Hilliard. Throughout the term, the 1st years have explored different aspects of design such as manual drafting and real world design projects.

The projects are both fun and challenging for the students to partake in.

Tech Graphics is also a module for Transition year students to try out for 6-7 weeks, preparing them if they want to try it out for leaving certificate. We have done 8 graphic pieces over the course of those 6-7 weeks and handed them in as one project for our end of year portfolio.

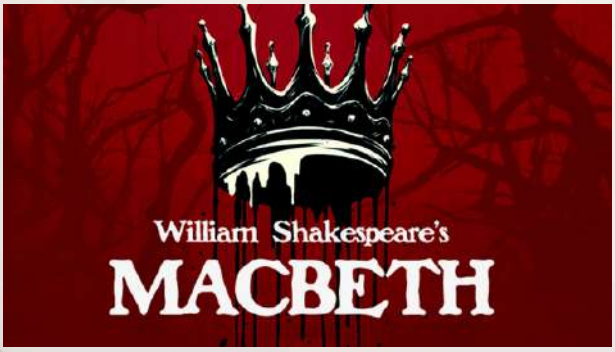
By, Tifera 4C

English



THERE WAS A LOVELY CULTURAL TRIP FOR OUR 6TH YRS TO THE HEANEY EXHIBITION AND YEATS EXHIBITION.

THEY ALSO ATTENDED A PERFORMANCE OF MACBETH AT THE MILL THEATRE AS PART OF THEIR REVISION FOR THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE.



Science Week!

"Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known." - Carl Sagan

On Monday, the first years took part in a Science challenge and then on Thursday, they excelled in a science quiz in the library.

2nd yrs and 3rd yrs drew their internal body systems/ organs on t-shirts. They also tested their memory from 1st yr Science with these.

4th, 5th and 6th yrs had a talk from a speak on SOLAS. They spoke to senior students about Science apprenticeships.

1st and 6th yr buddies took part in a Science riddle race around the school!

LIFE IN TY

The Enterprise class went on a trip to Powerscourt where we had the chance to meet many female ambassadors and got to learn more about their work and what they do. We escorted them to the event and with that were able to ask them questions and engage in conversation with them. We met the ambassador of France, Palestine, Bulgaria and many more. We went to stands that talked about domestic violence against women in third world countries and a stand that talked about refugees who are seeking asylum and need our help. We engaged in discussions about the importance of education and language with the ambassadors. Afterwards we were able to see the Botanic Gardens for free before we headed back.

We had a skin care workshop where we learnt all about how to look after our skin, scalp and body. We learnt the types of acne and how to look after it. The woman who came to speak to us taught a proper skincare routine for morning and night and how important it is. We learnt that you should look after your scalp and body just as much a your face and you should use a scalp scrubber in the shower and oil your entire body after. You should research advantages/disadvantages putting anything.

By Alice and Joy 4C

We did a self defence workshop on the 9th of October. When we entered the hall at first the man sat us down in a circle and told our class about different types of danger, and the 3 colours he used to symbolise the different levels of danger, depending on the situation we could find ourselves in. Green meaning safe, orange meaning you are in some level of danger and red meaning extreme danger. He taught us how to properly defend ourselves when being attacked. We learned the proper stance to have during a fight, how to de-escalate dangerous situations and learned a series of movements that would help us to attack efficiently and be able to escape.

By Abigail and Sophie 4L/4C

ENTERPRISE CLASS

Business name: Wool and Wood by Sarah Kate
Products: handmade wooden pens and miniature woolen hats
A bit about this business: I had this idea because my dad is interested in woodturning, so we had a lot of the equipment necessary before starting this business! My dad showed me how to make wooden pens from start to finish. The most important thing to remember when working with machinery such as a drill press or a lathe is to be incredibly careful and to not lose focus. It is important to tie up hair and roll up sleeves to avoid injury. I am selling my pens for €15 each. I am also selling miniature woolen hats for €1.50. You can find more information about my business on my Instagram: @woolandwoodbysk. I have sold my products at the Cluny Christmas Fair on 7th December and online on my social media account.

We are 'Little Wish Doors'- a TY Enterprise Company creating handmade clay fairy doors in aid of Make-A-Wish Ireland. Individually handcrafted, our unique doors are sculpted, painted and packaged with love for you to enjoy. And you'll be adding magic to the lives of children by supporting Make-A-Wish Ireland.
By Abigail Coburn

ACHILL

TY Achill Island Trip

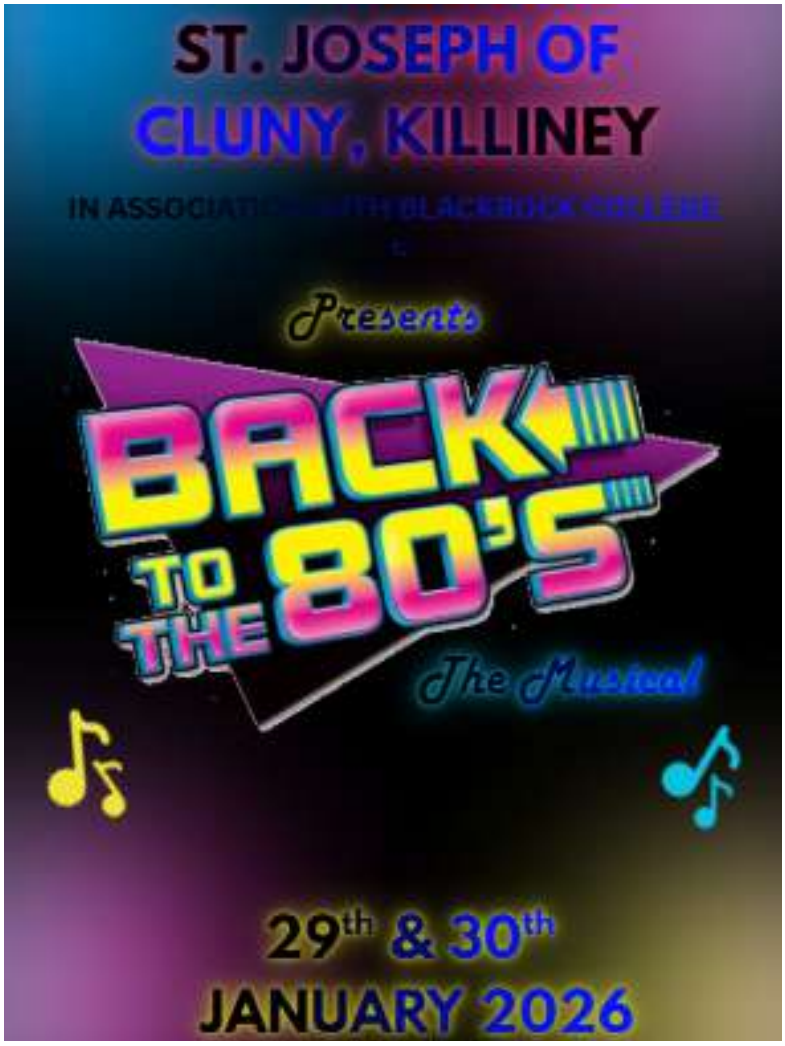
Our Transition Year group went to Achill Island on Thursday the 18th of September for four days and three nights. It was one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had!

It began bright and early at 8am on Thursday morning meeting at the school. A couple of the girls were late, so we didn't leave school until 9am. The bus ride was 4 hours and 30 minutes, but we stopped halfway there for 45 minutes for food.
I had never been to Mayo before, and the scenery blew me away. I was expecting the Centre to be very old, but I was very surprised to see it was very modern.

On the first day we went surfing. It was so much fun! Even though I wasn't very good at it and kept falling off the board, I'm still proud of myself for trying. Then we went back to the Centre, got changed and had dinner in the dining room. To finish the night off we went pier jumping. I didn't get in because I was still so cold and the water looked freezing. We then went back and relaxed for the night.
On day two was the day that I dreaded the most, the 46km cycle. We left around 9:30am and came back at 4:30pm. It took us 4-5 hours, and we got an hour break in between. It was a very tuff challenge but whole year came out alive. We then went back to the house and relaxed, and we all went pier jumping to relax our muscles. That night a few of us played a game called "granny". It was so much fun!
On the third and final full day we woke up to heavy rain and dark skies. But we didn't let the weather stop us, we powered through and still went on the 8km hike. Everyone was soaking wet, but it didn't matter to us because we had so much fun. We sang songs, played games, and saw all the beautiful sights. That night the whole year came together as well as the teachers, and we all played card games, imposter and the year's favorite game of Achill "granny". Everyone was so sad going to bed that night knowing that it was over.
We then left school at 1:00pm on Sunday and arrived home at 6:00pm.

Achill was truly one of the best experiences I have ever had. I would love to go back! It has brought me so many memories. I would recommend it to anyone that is thinking about going.

TY MUSICAL - 'BACK TO THE 80S'



The Cluny Musical and Blackrock Radio
The cast of 'Back to the 80s' to visit Blackrock College to talk on their radio show. Some of the cast were interviewed on their characters in the musical and our leads, Emily Woods and Tifera Ngwenya sang popular songs from our musical, such as Man in the Mirror.

The Cast and Crew
This year's cast are an enthusiastic, motivated and hard-working bunch featuring students from both Cluny and Blackrock College. Our leads are, Emily Woods who will be playing Tiffany Houston, the joyful, popular girl who brightens the stage. Luke O'Connell will be playing Corey Jr, your average high school boy who hopes for a romantic connection with Tiffany. Róisín, Carl, Ms Masterson and Ms Makrai have been amazing with getting the musical together. There truly would be no musical without them.

Mid-term rehearsals
Musical rehearsals occurred on 28th of October and 30th of October. On 28th rehearsals took place from 9am until 2pm with girls only in school, learning many dances like "Video Killed the Radio Star", "Let's Hear It For the Boys", "Walking on Sunshine" and many more. On the 30th we covered 'Hey Mickey', 'Footloose' and important scenes with our cast.

Abigail Coburn, Daria Kravchenko and Hannah Byrne.

Tickets will be available in January on Eventbrite. Performances are the 29th and 30th of January

TY DAY TRIPS

Hidden Valley

Everything kicked off on the 10th of September when we started on our exciting trip to Hidden Valley Aquapark. We left school at 9:30 AM and arrived by 10:00, buzzing with energy. After we got off the bus, we headed straight to the changing rooms to change into our clothes for swimsuits. It was Baltic outside! Once everyone was changed, we were fitted with wetsuits by the staff based on our age and size. The wetsuits were freezing at first, but they helped us stay warm in the water. Next up: safety gear. We put on helmets and life jackets and then, finally, it was time to jump in. To say the water was cold would be an understatement. We watched a short safety video as well to prepare us. After we hit the inflatable obstacle course. It was super slippery, and between the slips, trips, and splashes, everyone was laughing non-stop. There was a huge waterslide almost everyone went down, some people even landed face first in the water! The whole group burst out laughing as one person after another was launched into the lake.

By Eibhlin Costello

Aircon

We had the opportunity to attend Aircon in Dublin. There we had the chance to talk to pilots about their job and how it might look in the future. We also were able to talk to the army about how aviation technology affects their job. We were very interested in learning about the innovation of aviation technology and how we can be part of it.

TY Culinary Arts

In St Joseph of Cluny, Culinary Arts is one of the many subjects we do in Transition Year. It is a year-long subject that students have the option to pick at the start of the year, as well as Junk Kouture and Enterprise. In Culinary Arts, we get to cook or bake in the double class, and in the single class, we do the 'Safe Foods Programme', which is a presentation on food safety and hygiene.

So far in Culinary Arts we have made a wide range of food and baked goods. We started of the year with making mini cupcakes and we've done many different things since then such as beef tacos, pesto and flatbreads, chicken fajitas, pizza, protein balls and more! We have also done some seasonal bakes such as ghost brownies for Halloween and festive Christmas biscuit cake for Christmas!

In Culinary Arts, we learn many valuable skills, such as how to keep the kitchen clean and how to store food properly, and crucial skills in cooking that we can use in our daily lives. We have also completed a presentation on food safety and hygiene, which we have presented in class.
By Matilda Foley

Work Experience

The girls in TY have a diverse amount of work experience across various fields, each contributing to their unique skill sets, the girls were gone from the 20th to the 24th of October.

I did my work experience in my local hairdresser's, La Luer Salon in Ballybrack village. I got this experience through my mum, who has been getting her hair done there for a long time and she became good friends with the woman who owns it, Selena. My first day, I spent the morning cleaning out the shed in the back and putting all of the cardboard boxes into the bin. Then I learned how to curl hair with a straightener.

On the second day, I cleaned down all her chairs properly and learnt how to clean mirrors. I was then speaking to some clients and made them all tea. I watched all the hairstylists cut and style hair. The third day, I spent sorting out all the towels and taking all the scissors to be sharpened. I also got my hair cut for free and learnt all about how to keep my hair healthy.

On the final day, I got my roots bleached and said my thank you to everyone I had worked with. Overall, I enjoyed my work experience and fell comfortable in a place of work. Although hairdressing isn't something I would be interested in, in the future, I'm grateful for the experience I had..
Lily Cummins, 4L

I was working in the office on Fitzwilliams place. Every day I got the bus into town at 7 o'clock in the morning. This tested my time management skills to ensure I was at work experience at the right time.
-Tiferea

F

I did my work experience in Sports Physio Ireland from the 20th to the 24th of October. The Physio practice I was working in was not very big but everyone was really nice. I was shadowing a physio, and I was setting up exercises he asked me to get ready.
-Caomihe Carolan

I did my work experience in Betty Allen's Glenagery Bontesorri, from the 20th to the 24th of October. I had a lot of fun working with the children, they were very energetic and very polite. The teacher I was helping was a lovely woman; she was a great teacher, and the kids loved her. I helped the kids with their handwriting, cleaned up after their messes and also helped them to read.
-Robyn Doyle

GLENAGEARY MONTESSORI

Spanish OPINION

As international students, we have seen big changes since leaving our respective countries. Food, for example, in Spain, the main meal is lunch, whereas here it is dinner. Schedules, climate, social life... In Spain, people are more extroverted and open, as are customs and culture.

This experience has been a lot of fun because in Spain we don't have a course like TY. In Spain, it's like any other course, but here we go on more trips and do more work. We're also doing a musical here, which we wouldn't do in Spain. There are also many different subjects; in Spain, there are only the basic ones.

Advice we would give to people coming here is, for example, to bring a waterproof coat that is very warm, and you won't use an umbrella because the wind will break it, so it's not very useful. Another piece of advice is not to stay out too late in Dublin, because some strange people start to come out and it can be dangerous. Also, always carry your Leap Card and some money with you, and it's also very important to carry a portable charger.

JUNK KOUTURE

Junk Kouture Takes Shape in TY: Creativity, Collaboration, and Commitment

Our Transition Year students have been working with remarkable energy and imagination as they develop their Junk Kouture creations for the upcoming January deadline. This project has truly brought out the best of their creativity, teamwork, and determination.

Across every group, students are transforming unexpected and everyday materials into innovative fashion pieces. Their designs feature an impressive mix of textures and elements – everything from shells and twigs to branches, coins, receipts, leaves, and many more unusual finds. Their ability to see artistic potential in such diverse materials has been inspiring to witness.

n classrooms and workshops, the atmosphere is one of enthusiasm and focus. Students are sewing, gluing, constructing, and redesigning as they bring their ambitious concepts to life. Each team has demonstrated outstanding collaboration, dividing tasks, problem-solving together, and supporting one another through challenges.

As their teacher, I am incredibly proud of their commitment and work ethic. They have embraced the creative process with maturity and excitement, and their progress so far is a testament to their dedication. We look forward to seeing their hard work showcased on the Junk Kouture stage in the new year.

SPORTS ROUND UP

HOCKEY

1st Years

1st years had a nice start to hockey life in St. Joseph's of Cluny. It was very exciting to have our first boys' team for the school. The girls have been busy playing 8 a side league games and after Christmas, will move into a full-pitch 11-a-side league.

Minors

Our minors have had played some great hockey this half of the year with great results in the league against Alexandra College and St Andrews, while narrowly missing out to a good Loreto Beaufort team. A few good results after Christmas could see them in a ¼ final match

Juniors

The juniors have had two brilliant like wins against East Glendalough and Donabate, while losing to a strong Drogheda Grammar team. A win in their last league game might see them make it into a semi final

Seniors

The seniors have played some great hockey but have been very unlucky in several games. They lost to a very strong Kilkenny College team in their first league game, but have improved since then. In the cup, they pushed Loreto Bray to the very end, unfortunately losing 2-0 in the end

Hockey Trip To The Women's Pro League

We were delighted to bring 30 students out to the National Sports Campus over in Abbotstown to support the Irish Women's team in the Pro League. It was amazing for everyone to see such a high level of hockey

BADMINTON

It has been a very busy Badminton season so far. This year we have 6 teams entered in Dublin leagues – two at U 19, two at U 16 and two at U 14. Practice takes place on Thursdays for 1st and 2nd year girls and boys, and Fridays for 3rd,4th,5th and 6th yr girls. All students are welcome, and it's great to see so many playing.

League matches for U 19s and U 16s have been completed, with some positive results in both age groups. We are now into the knockout stages of the competition and congratulations are due to the U 19 As who have qualified for the Dublin finals, while the U 19Bs have reached the Dublin quarterfinals.

We are currently waiting on the updates for the U 16 teams. U 14s will begin their leagues after the holidays.

Wishing all our players a very Happy Christmas.

Ms M Seymour

BASKETBALL

The end of term has come and Cluny's Senior and U/16's league campaign is over. The u/16 team finished just outside the playoff positions and were disappointed not to make the quarterfinals. So now it's wait until next year. The seniors were very unlucky. Reaching the semifinals after a very good win over Luttrellstown Community School. The semifinal game was against L' St. Stephen's Green. The flu arrived to early for two members of the team, and unfortunately, they were too sick to play the semifinal. The girls did their best, but it wasn't to be. The girls did their best, and after the match, we found that two more players were feeling sick and possibly had the flu as well. The score in the semifinal was the Green 42-31.

After Christmas leagues start for first and second year girls and first year boys for the first time in the school's history. It's going to be interesting and exciting. 💙🏀

Spooktacular Halloween Show!

Charity Round up

This term, our students have worked tirelessly to create opportunities, to give, to have fun, to be creative, and most of all, bring joy to those who need it. These actions clearly reflect the Cluny ethos of personal responsibility and inclusivity.

It began in September with the Bewley's Coffee Morning in aid of Blackrock Hospice, raising €2500, followed swiftly by a Breast Cancer Coffee Morning (the 6th yr charity) in October, raising €900. Hot on the heels of these two events the 5th and 6th years held a sleep out in aid of Focus Ireland 'Shine a Light' campaign, fundraising over €2263. Our Student Council organised a mental well-being day, raising €550 for 'Aware'.

Our TY continue their relationship with Aobhinn's Pink Tie, doing a bake sale raising €225. We were also able to donate a number of period products to the Hygiene Bank. They also gave their time to bag-packing in Dunnes to raise funds for Saint Vincent de Paul. In November, the entire school got involved in donating Shoeboxes for the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal, and we smashed last years total! Our little elves did not stop! Interspersed with all of these events were our 3rd years who used their CSPE Action Projects to run two cake sales for 'Rise against Hunger' (€300) and the Irish Cancer Society.

Bewley's BIG COFFEE MORNING SOCIAL FOR HOSPICE

Irish Cancer Society

Cluny CHARITIES

This year, Cluny has participated in the Team Hope Shoebox Appeal. We managed to donate over 180 shoebox's this year to help bring joy to children's Christmas.

The TY students did a bake sale to raise money for Aoibheann's Pink Tie. In this charity, they provide practical, social, and financial support to children with cancer and their families. They raised €225 euros for this charity

Stand Up Awareness Week!

Our school runs Stand Up Awareness Week to combat anti-LGBTQ+ bullying to create more welcoming, inclusive, and safer spaces for LGBTQ+ young people. The campaign, led by organizations like Belong To, involves events, lessons, and activities to prevent homophobic and transphobic bullying by increasing awareness, and ensuring that LGBTQ+ students feel seen, heard, and supported!!!

This is a national campaign that provides educational resources and a dedicated time for students and staff to show support for LGBTQ+ youth, celebrate diversity, and prevent bullying by making school spaces more welcoming.

Meanwhile in Cluny, we had the honor of hosting stand up awareness week this term. Our fabulous students took part in loads of activities over the week! From testing your knowledge on LGBTQ+ History to good ol' fashioned Bingo! Our pupils enjoyed making colorful bracelets with our amazingly enthusiastic art teacher – Ms. O'Keeffe!

During our Monday lunch break we were able to witness the raising of the LGBTQ+ flag in front of our school. It was a very #proudmommoment for our school!

GREEN SCHOOLS

We have had a busy term in Green Schools. Climate Action Week began with a whole school assembly on our findings of a litter audit undertaken by the committee and to introduce the school community to the new waste management system in the school. All general waste bins have been removed from classrooms, and we have new waste management stations throughout the school where staff and students can dispose of their waste in the correct manner. Our goal is to reduce our black bin waste by 20% this year. During Climate Action week, Our First Years enjoyed a live travelling show and workshop called Bin It` where they learned about the importance of proper waste disposal and protecting our environment. Students also participated in local cleans ups, with plans to complete more in the new year.

We are also taking part in the Let`s Fix Fashion` programme again this year. TY Junk Kouture students attended the premiere of Losing the Thread; The Cost of Fast Fashon` at the Lighthouse Cinema in Smithfield. The launch also has a swop shop, upcycling station and community art projects, which inspired our students. As part of our work on the programme, all First Year students attended a Christmas upcycling workshop where they upcycled an item of clothing under the Christmas theme. Thanks to TY Green Schools Committee members and TY Christmas Cheer Committee for making it so much fun for our First Years.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Well done to all our public speakers and debaters who represented the school this term.

At Junior Cycle, four of our Third Years are representing Cluny at the Junior Leinster Schools debates at UCD. Grace, Sylvia, Juliet and Aoife have debated on a diverse range of topics, such as chatbots' potential role in government, parental culpability for underage children's crimes, and if the spreading of fake news online should be a crime.

At Senior Cycle, Fifth-Year students are currently competing in the Concern Debates competition. Keeva, Cordelia, Lilith, Eimear, Roxanna and Ciara have debated on whether our commitments to end world hunger are a load of hot air, if disinformation is the greatest risk to global peace, and if boycotting is the best way to end fast fashion.

Three Sixth Year students took time out of their busy schedule to represent Cluny at the Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition at The Mansion House in November. Our Head Girl Layla spoke on the importance of voting, Molly on how open communication can combat online misinformation and Deputy Head Girl Rebecca on empowering women. Well done to Rebecca for coming runner up in the competition. A special congratulations to Molly, who also spoke at the Child Talks 2025 Conference in November.

Ms MacEvoy

CHRISTMAS FAIR!

26TH TALENT SHOW!!!