

Summer Newsletter

Coláiste Íosaḡáin

2026

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With the arrival of summer at the beginning of May, a reflective celebration took place as students from the Student Council decorated our own May Tree on the grounds of Coláiste Íosaḡáin.

*Thugamar féin an samhradh linn,
Samhradh buí na nóinín gléigeal,
Thugamar féin an samhradh linn.*



School Reopening

1st Year

Date	Time	Location
26/08/2026	11-1:30	Íosagáin School Hall
27/08/2026*	9-11	Íosagáin School Hall
28/08/2026*	9-11	Íosagáin School Hall
31/08/2026	13:00-15:00	All-weather Pitch
01/09/2026	08:40:12:10	In rooms according to timetable
02/09/2026 - 04/09/26	Normal school day	Normal school day

* Students from English language primary schools only

2nd Year

Date	Time	Location
27/08/2026	10:00-11:00	Íosagáin School Hall
28/08/2026		Free
31/08/2026		Free
01/09/2026	08:40:12:10	In rooms according to timetable
02/09/2026 - 04/09/26	Normal school day	Normal school day

3rd Year

Date	Time	Location
27/08/2026	13:00-14:00	Íosagáin School Hall
28/08/2026		Free
31/08/2026		Free
01/09/2026	08:40:12:10	In rooms according to timetable
02/09/2026 - 04/09/26	Normal school day	Normal school day

4th Year

Date	Time	Location
01/09/2026	08:40-12:10	Íosagáin School Hall
01/09/2026	08:40:12:10	In rooms according to timetable
02/09/2026 - 04/09/26	Normal school day	Normal school day

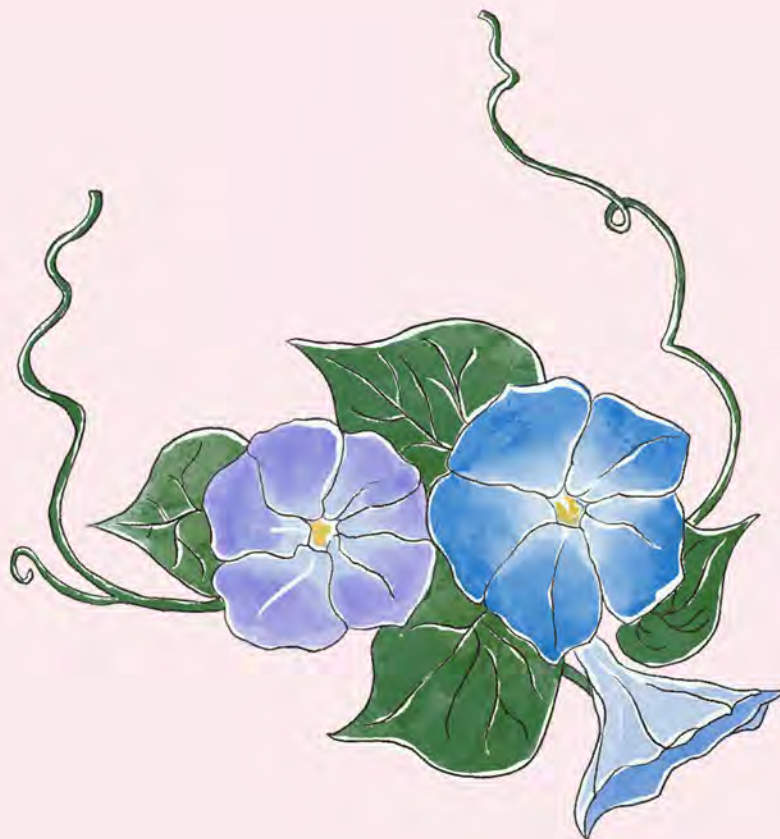
School Reopening

5th Year

Date	Time	Location
31/08/2026	10-11	Íosagáin School Hall
01/09/2026	08:40:12:10	In rooms according to timetable
02/09/2026 - 04/09/26	Normal school day	Normal school day

6th Year

Date	Time	Location
31/08/2026	10-11:00	Lecture Theatre
01/09/2026	08:40:12:10	In rooms according to timetable
02/09/2026 - 04/09/26	Normal school day	Normal school day



A Word from the Principal

Dear Parents and Students,

As we now reach the end of the school year, I would like to thank everyone in our school community, our students, staff and families, for the hard work, support and wonderful community spirit shown throughout the year.

We are extremely proud of the progress and achievements made this year in learning, sport, music and many other school activities since the beginning of the year.

I hope that everyone in the school community enjoys a well-earned break over the summer. I wish the very best of luck to 3rd and 6th Year students who will soon be sitting their state examinations. I also want to wish every success to the students who are leaving the school. I hope you will carry many happy memories of your time here at Coláiste Íosagáin and that you will do well on whatever path you choose in the future. The world is at your feet.

Wishing you all a happy summer, and I look forward to seeing everyone back at school safely at the end of August.

Yours Sincerely,

Treasa Ní Fhearraigh.
Principal

JANUARY - MAY

There has been a great deal happening at Coláiste Íosagáin over the past term, with the school working alongside communities, groups and organisations across the country to cultivate our excellent Irish-medium and Christian education.

The final term is always an especially busy one, and the students and teachers of the school have, as ever, been working diligently throughout. You can read below about the changes taking place and the continued development of our school in the newsletter.



Spiritual Affairs

The new term began in a spiritual and reflective way as the school came together on 6 January to celebrate Women's Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany. The history associated with the day was explored, along with the legacy of the Three Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, and the traditions connected with the occasion in other countries were highlighted.

New Year's resolutions were also discussed, as well as the importance of showing respect for yourself, for friends, for the school community and for the environment as we embraced a fresh start to the year.

St Brigid's Day

Students of Coláiste Íosagáin and the Íosagáin music group marked St Brigid's Day with a special celebration, presenting a performance for the school during the morning assemblies. Through music, prayers and poetry, tribute was paid to our national saint, and students learned about the importance of her legacy. Many thanks to Iníon Uí Dhomhnaill for organising the event.



1st Year Retreat

1st Year students began the year in a reflective and spiritual way, attending a spiritual retreat. This wonderful programme is organised by the De La Salle order in Ballyfermot and gives students the opportunity to pray, reflect and take part in outdoor walks.

There was plenty of fun and enjoyment throughout the day, while students also had the chance to take some quiet time for personal reflection.



Breakfast for Mary's Meals

A fundraising event in support of the charity Mary's Meals was held on 20 January. Every student brought breakfast into school, and the food was shared and enjoyed during first period that morning.

Mary's Meals is a charity that provides meals for schoolchildren in developing countries. The breakfast was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, and a significant amount of money was raised on the day.



Book Club

The book club has been thriving this year, with a great deal of reading taking place. There have been lively discussions on novels, authors, different literary genres and much more.

Our thanks to COGG for sponsoring the Junior Irish Book Club, and to Iníon Uí Choileáin for managing these clubs.



There are English and Irish Book Clubs for both junior and senior students, with members reading a wide range of books. Among the books read this year by the junior groups were *The Hobbit*, *What Walks These Halls*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Katfish agus Scéalta Eile*, *Fuadach*, *Morf*, *Frankenstein* and many others.

Alongside the reading, a variety of events were organised for the clubs. For example, the renowned author Réaltán Ní Leannáin visited Coláiste Íosagáin during the year.

The book club continues to go from strength to strength.

Environmental Affairs

The Environmental Committee has been working tirelessly since the beginning of the school year. The Environmental Captains, Thea Goodhue and Maria Ní Uaithne, spoke at the official launch of the Green Schools Programme in January at University of Galway. They outlined the work currently being carried out as the school works towards achieving its twentieth Green Flag. The theme of both the talk and this year's programme is *Food and Biodiversity – Global Citizenship*. The committee also had the opportunity to meet students from other schools and to see the new Irish-language booklet. It was an excellent day for all involved



The committee was kept busy with the arrival of spring, planting seeds and new vegetables. As the saying goes, "Those who do not sow in spring will not reap in autumn!"



Irish Language Week

There was plenty of music, fun and friendship to be found in Coláiste Íosagáin and throughout the local community during Seachtain na Gaeilge. The Irish Committee and teachers organised a wide range of events throughout the week.

4th Year students visited local primary schools to promote the Irish language among younger pupils. Students from Benildus College visited Coláiste Íosagáin to meet with our 6th Year students and to experience a taste of Irish-medium education.

The Cairde Gaeilge group organised an Irish-language quiz, and a céilí for 4th Year students was arranged with Coláiste Eoin.



ty events

There was great teamwork, friendship and enjoyment to be seen across many of the Transition Year activities from Christmas onwards, with students, coordinators, year heads and teachers all enjoying a busy and productive term.

An Seó Bóthair in Coláiste Íosagáin

Transition Year students took part in reflection and brainstorming activities on the importance of the Irish language and the possibilities of using it outside the school setting when An Seó Bóthair visited Coláiste Íosagáin in January.

An Seó Bóthair is an interactive workshop organised by Conradh na Gaeilge which encourages students to think critically about their attitudes towards the language. Discussions took place on where Irish can be used, language rights, employment opportunities and third-level courses available through Irish. It was an extremely interesting workshop.



Learning, development and progress have been at the heart of 4th Year activities since the beginning of January. Workshops were held on safety during cooking, water safety with the RNLI, and women working in engineering. Alongside these activities, Transition Year students have also been undertaking language examinations over the past month, including TEG examinations in Irish and DELF examinations in French.



National Career Skills Competition

This year, every Transition Year student in Coláiste Íosagáin had the opportunity to enter the National Career Skills Competition, which is organised annually by CareersPortal.

As part of the competition, students were required to write a report on their work experience and carry out a career investigation. Grace Nic Mhathúna won the Irish-language category of the competition. She chose to write about her work experience at EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum because she enjoyed it so much. She also carried out research into the profession of genealogy.

Grace was invited to attend the awards ceremony in the Department of Education alongside her parents, the school principal, the school guidance counsellor and the other winners. CareersPortal awarded €1,000 to the school and presented Grace with a computer prize.

According to Grace, "I would strongly recommend that every school encourage their students to take part in the competition next year."

This is a tremendous achievement, and we congratulate her warmly.



Gaisce

As part of the Gaisce programme, a group of Transition Year students took part in a hillwalking expedition along the Dublin Mountain Way at the end of April. They were fortunate with the weather, with glorious sunshine throughout the day.

The students were certainly exhausted after the 21km walk, but they had great fun high up in the hills.



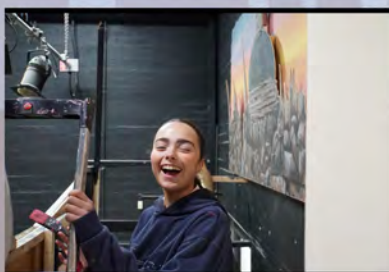
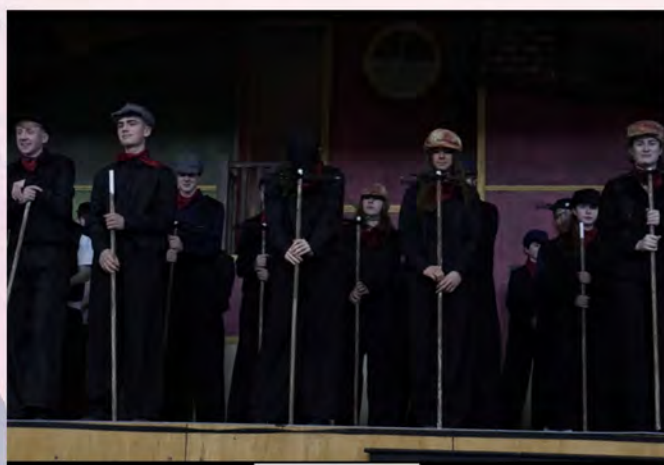
Coláiste Eoin and Íosagáin Musical 2026

Transition Year students worked together with Transition Year students from Coláiste Eoin to stage an outstanding musical production this year, An Cailín ón nGaoth (Mary Poppins). The school musical has been a central part of the Transition Year programme for many years.

The commitment shown by the Transition Year students in both schools was a source of great pride for the school community, and they deserve enormous praise for their work in art, music, acting, stage management and all the other responsibilities involved in bringing such a high-quality production to the stage. They have every reason to be proud of their efforts.

Special thanks are also due to Iníon Uí Arrachtáin, who directed the musical and oversaw the choreography of the production. Alongside her, both schools would like to give special recognition to Julian Hills (set and stage), Aoife Ní Nualláin (costumes), Thomás Ó Dubhurthuile, Róisín Nic Pháidín (costumes, make-up and stage management), Aoibheann Nic Giolla Ríogh (props) and Cormac Ó Bréartúin (props), all of whom worked tirelessly to bring this musical to the stage.

We would also like to express our thanks to Mairéad Ní Dhúichon for assisting with the translation of the script. It was an exceptional production.



TY Night

There were presentations, speeches and celebrations for the Transition Year students at the beginning of May during Transition Year Evening. Our past pupil, the editor Úna Ní Dhonghaíle, returned to deliver an inspiring address to the year group.

She spoke about her work experience and the advantages she gained from having received an Irish-medium education at school. It was an honour to welcome Úna back, and we are extremely grateful to her for taking the time to speak with the students.

The achievements and highlights of the year were showcased, and the progress made by the students was celebrated throughout the evening. Thanks are due to Ellen Nic Phiarais, Transition Year Coordinator, and to the committees for all of their work during the year.



Debating

The senior team performed well in Comórtas Uí Chadhain this year. They debated a range of motions, including “This House believes that the presidency no longer has value”, and succeeded in qualifying for the second round. Unfortunately, both Ulster teams they faced in that round proved too strong on the day.

The French debating team also enjoyed great success, reaching the quarter-finals of the Joutes Oratoires competition this year.

In addition, students from Coláiste Íosagáin took part in The Leinster Schools Debating Competition, organised by the Literary and Historical Society and the Dublin University Historical Society. Students from 4th to 6th Year participated in the competition, which involved 107 schools.

One student in particular, Sorchá Borland (6th Year), achieved outstanding success by progressing to the quarter-finals. The motion she debated at this stage was both challenging and thought-provoking: “This House, as the government of a newly decolonised country, would seek to appease rather than oppose their former colonial rulers.”



MACE Debates

A 5th Year team from Coláiste Íosagáin recently attended the MACE debating competition in Trinity College Dublin.

This competition was open exclusively to girls and focused on Leaving Certificate and 5th Year students. A range of interesting motions were debated, and participants were given only 15 minutes to prepare before the debates began.

Emma Ní Mhaoltuile and Alice Sinclair won the competition overall managed to reach the final. The students greatly enjoyed the day and learned a great deal about this different style of debating.

Ambassadorial Visits

There was great excitement in the school community in April when two special visitors came to the school: the Greek Ambassador, Georgios Stilianopoulos, and Minister of State Thomas Byrne. They spoke to students about Ireland's upcoming Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Particular emphasis was placed on the opportunities available to students with languages across Europe. The visit included a question-and-answer session, music and singing, and it was a wonderful occasion for everyone involved.

In addition, the Belgian Ambassador, Nicolas Nihon, visited the school during the St Patrick's Day celebrations, where the links between Ireland and Belgium were celebrated. Our language assistant, Enya de Macar, played a particularly important role in organising the visit.

Coláiste Íosagáin certainly enjoys strong international connections at present.



COLÁISTE ÍOSAGÁIN AT ARDFFEIS NA NÓG

Six 5th Year students, Nicole Ní Dhúlaing, Izobel Ní Thiarnáin, Caoileann Ní Dhuibhir, Aobha de Róiste, Róise Nig Cuill and Emily Ní Mhaoilmhiaigh, attended Ardfheis na nÓg, organised by Conradh na Gaeilge, in An Rinn, County Waterford, in April. The students met with other young people from Gaeltacht areas and Irish-medium schools from across the country. The main aim of the event is to encourage discussion and critical thinking about the importance and future of the Irish language. The group attended workshops, talks, céilís and other events, and also delivered a presentation on recruitment within the public sector.

Reading, interviews and surveys were used to gather information for their research. The Íosagáin group focused particularly on education and identified a significant gap in the number of third-level courses available through Irish. The students also spoke about their own interest in the Irish language and Irish culture. The judges were highly impressed by the research and the interesting findings presented by the Íosagáin delegation, and our students succeeded in winning the award for best research.

These young delegates were truly engaged in “community building” and deserve enormous praise, as does Iníon Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh, who accompanied and supported them throughout this fascinating research project.



A Visit to the Theatre

Theatre Visit and Poor Performance with 3rd Year

3rd Year students attended a performance of The Merchant of Venice in the Clasac Theatre. Here are the reflections and thoughts of Ellen Uí Shúilleabháin:

"My class and I were excited to travel to this interactive show called Shakesperience. The show is aimed at helping students preparing for the Junior Certificate to gain a better understanding of The Merchant of Venice, written by Shakespeare, of course. I learned a great deal from the actors as they explained how things such as body language, costume and lighting can influence the audience's perception of a performance. I really enjoyed the show and learned many new terms..."

Poor, a powerful theatrical production presented at Gate Theatre, is based on the autobiographical work of Katriona O'Sullivan. The play tells the story of her childhood growing up in extremely difficult circumstances, where poverty and addiction formed part of her everyday life.

3rd Year students were fortunate to watch a live-streamed performance of this production, which was both deeply moving and thought-provoking. It gave an honest portrayal of the challenges and obstacles faced by children growing up in disadvantaged families and offered a profound insight into the impact poverty can have on a person's life from a very young age.

The play inspired reflection and discussion among the students.



Darkness into Light

The Coláiste Íosagáin school community took part in our Darkness into Light walk early on the morning of 27 March, walking from Sandymount to the school grounds.

For the past three years, students and teachers of Coláiste Íosagáin have come together at sunrise on a spring morning for this event. The walk is organised to raise funds for the charities Pieta and Jigsaw.

The sunrise served as a powerful symbol of hope and reminded us that light always follows darkness.



"Take A Stand Against Discrimination" Week

"Seas an Fód" Week was a great success. Presentations on mental health, resilience and mentorship were delivered during the school assembly on 24 April.

The 6th Year and 1st Year Cairde Gaeilge groups met with one another and went for a walk outdoors around the local area. Hot chocolate was organised for the 3rd Year students, and a photograph was taken of the school rainbow to reflect the diversity of the school community. It was an excellent week overall.



Students from the different year groups had great fun throughout the week, using chalk to decorate the basketball court with positive messages.



Electric Picnic

We held our own “Electric Picnic” at school in partnership with Coláiste Eoin on 14 May. There was sunshine, rain, ice cream and excellent music throughout the day.

It is clear that a love of music lies at the heart of the school community’s culture. Congratulations to everyone who took part, and sincere thanks to the student leaders and teachers for all of the organisation involved.



Junior Eurovision

The junior students enjoyed an outstanding afternoon in April as they took part in the class song competition, “Eurofís”. Not only was there an abundance of talent on display, but there was also a strong sense of friendship, kindness and rich use of language throughout the day.

We are extremely proud of all of them. Special congratulations go to 1 Bréannan, 2 Cróine and 3 Life, the winners of the day.



Student Achievements

Vice-Principal of Coláiste Íosagáin, Aoibheann Ní Bhriain, attended a ceremony at University College Dublin in February, where Entrance Awards were presented to our past pupils Susie Lee Cooper, Kate Nic Giolla Eoghain and Bláthnaid Ní Icí.

Congratulations also to our past pupils Aifric Ní Ghloinn, Aoife Ní Ghiolláin, Louise Ní Chrotaigh and Shona Ní Shionóid, who were presented with Entrance Award Certificates at Trinity College Dublin on 22 January.

We are extremely proud of them all.



Student Achievements

Congratulations to Rosa Ní Choisteala from 1st Year, who won a writing award at the Joe Steve Winter School in Galway at the beginning of the year. Uachtarán na hÉireann, Catherine Connolly, was in attendance to present her with the award.



ÍOSAGÁIN Sport

Coláiste Íosagáin has enjoyed an extremely successful term in camogie, football, basketball and athletics since the beginning of 2026.

Sports Day

A hugely successful Sports Day was once again organised in Coláiste Íosagáin this year. Students were divided into class-based teams and took part in a range of fun competitions such as “dodgeball”, relay races, Jenga races, handball and many others. A large group dance, An Dreoilín, brought the day to a close, with the sunshine adding to the fun, enjoyment and celebrations throughout the event.

Special thanks go to the sports captains, Rebekah and Sophie, who organised the activities, and to all of the teachers who helped out on the day.



ÍOSAÁIN Sport

Senior Camogie

The senior team took part in a seven-a-side camogie competition in Cuala GAA at the end of April. It was the final competition for the 6th Year students in the school jersey, and they had an unforgettable day.

The yellow team won the cup, while the black team won the shield. 5th Year students came along after school to show their support. The girls conducted themselves with great sportsmanship both on the pitch and on the sidelines.

We are very proud of them all.



ÍOSAÁIN Sport

Football

The U14 team performed very well this year as they prepared for the championship. They won several challenge matches and showed excellent form at the beginning of the competition. Unfortunately, despite a strong victory against Raheny, they were unable to qualify.

The team also enjoyed great success in the Scoop competition, reaching the final before losing to a very strong Muckross Park College team.

The 3rd Year and 4th Year teams also achieved excellent results in the Scoop competition in University College Dublin this year. The 4th Year team won the shield, while the 3rd Year team progressed all the way to the final.



ÍOSAÁIN Sport

Athletics

A large group of students recently took part in the track and field competition in Santry. Three students qualified for the Leinster Championships: Alice Sinclair, 5th Year (200m), Holly Ní Néill, 4th Year (300m), and Neasa Ní Chaoimh, 2nd Year (shot put).

Alice went on to win a bronze medal at the Leinster Championships, finishing in third place. They all deserve enormous praise for their achievements.



Farewell to 6th Year

The 6th Year class of 2026 has shared six wonderful years together, filled with laughter, friendship and learning. We are extremely proud of them and of all the work they have done throughout their time in school. We wish them every success as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

There is a long-standing tradition in Coláiste Íosagáin of a students-versus-teachers volleyball match taking place each May. That tradition continued this year, with a convincing victory for the teachers' team despite the students' brave efforts. A wonderful sense of school spirit could be seen and felt throughout the day.

We wish 6th Year every success for the future.

