



NEWSLETTER



The official newsletter of Coláiste Chiaráin

Welcome

Welcome to the November/December edition of our Coláiste Chiaráin Newsletter. We are delighted to celebrate and showcase the many activities, events and achievements from the past two months. From celebrating Science Week, College Awareness week and Our Annual American Exchange, we have had a very busy 2 months! Enjoy the read!

- ECOLOGY WORKSHOP IN KILLARNEY
- TALKS TO SENIOR GIRLS BY BREAST CANCER IRELAND
- FORM 4 AMERICAN EXCHANGE TRIP
- LEARGUS E-TWINNING AWARD
- NORTHERN TRUST/ BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY
- SCHOOL WALK
- TRANSITION YEAR ACTIVITIES
- SCIENCE WEEK
- A VISIT FROM VIRGIN MEDIA
- WINS FOR BOTH GIRLS AND BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS
- AND MUCH MORE.....



ECOLOGY WORKSHOP AT KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK

On Thursday, November 7th all 6th year Biology students travelled to Killarney National Park for an Ecology workshop. Students engaged in ecological studies carrying out practical activities that are mandatory for the Leaving Certificate curriculum. They conducted studies relating to the various animals and plants that are present in the woodland in Killarney national park. A great day was had by all!



Talk by Breast Cancer Ireland

Huge thank you to Karen Walsh from Breast Cancer Ireland for coming to the school to speak to senior girls and staff. We were delighted to be able to present a cheque for 2177 euro following our recent TY fundraiser to Breast Cancer Ireland . Well done all!



Coláiste Chiaráin American Exchange

Our Annual American Exchange took place in November. Our 4th Year students arrived in Philadelphia on 18th November where they were greeted by their American hosts.

The students had a jam-packed two week trip which included some days in school with the American students, a trip to Lancaster where they got to visit the Amish Village, a day trip to Philadelphia and they even got to go watch an ice hockey game. The group also went to New York for 3 days where they visited the 9/11 memorial, the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building. In Washington DC all the Historical Monuments were visited and even the White House. There were lots of tears when it was time to pack up to leave, but Coláiste Chiaráin is already looking forward to welcoming our American friends back to Ireland in March!



Annual School Walk



Leargas eTwinning Award 2024

In November, European Studies Teacher Maeve O'Sullivan received a National Quality Label award from Leargas. The award was granted for two eTwinning projects undertaken by Form 1 and Form 2 students during the last academic year. The award is granted to teachers whose projects have reached a certain National and European standard. Our projects demonstrated excellence in each of the five categories of evaluation - and Ms. O'Sullivan was one of only 15 teachers in Ireland to reach this standard and be awarded an NQL from Leargas.

Form 1's project connected them to a school in Nardo in Italy where a shared genially.com was created and students on both sides shared information about school life and our countries.

Similarly, Form 2 students connected with students on the Island of Rhodes in Greece. Cards and letters were shared initially via traditional post and information was shared about life in both countries. This year's form two students have expanded the eTwinning project with Greece to include a school in Finland where information is being shared by the three schools on different aspects of nature in our countries. These eTwinning projects allow us to learn about our European neighbours and compare the different aspects as well as the similarities between us all. These projects are an integral part of European Studies.



Think Languages Week

Think Languages Week took place from 18 – 22 November. Thousands of TY students in schools nationwide celebrated the festival of languages and cultures and both Colaiste Chiaráin students and Modern Foreign Language teachers (Spanish, French, German and Italian) were very excited to participate.

Our Champion Team organised various activities throughout the week including a daily morning quiz and Language podcasts where different students were interviewed to talk about their native languages - however sadly due to Storm Ewoyn we had to postpone the main event (to be held sometime next term). Our Champion Team were: TJ Keogh (Team Captain), Amos Smirnovs - Social Media Manager, Damian Zygmunt - Quiz Manager, Tiarna Parker - Scheduling Manager, Oisin Moore - Research Manager and Sarah Jane Hanly - Workshop Manager.

Northern Trust/Business in the Community

On Tuesday the 19th of November, Coláiste Chiaráin saw the launch of the 6th year Mentoring Programme with Business in the Community and Northern Trust.

We were delighted to continue this partnership and are grateful to all the mentors for giving up their time to volunteer and being so open about their own experiences in finding their chosen path. It is a testament to the programme's success that former mentors are returning. We are so grateful to GM Catherine Duffy for continuing to encourage this partnership and for taking the time to present to the mentors and mentees.

The atmosphere was positive and all pairs were fully engaged and attentive towards each other. Students had the opportunity to visit Northern Trust, tour their offices and experience the world of work for themselves. They formed relationships with their mentors, found out about the world of work and how their mentors ended up in their chosen career path.

They were inspired by talks from Joe Dougan, Eoin Geary and Abdul Haouit. The generous goodie bags and the delicious refreshments helped to generate a good working relationship and an engaging session.

Special thanks to Maura Murphy from Business in the Community who helped to facilitate and nurture this excellent programme for our pupils.



**NORTHERN
TRUST**

Session 2

On December 12th, Coláiste Chiaráin welcomed Northern Trust and Business In The Community to collaborate so students could explore career paths and investigate opportunities available in the world of work. Students got the chance to reflect on the factors that go into choosing a career by analysing their own strengths, skill sets, motivations, values, and interests to determine what domains suit them best. By doing this they were able to consider what areas they may be most attracted to. Working together on goal setting, the 6th year students were guided to focus on setting achievable targets for their study timetables and CAO process.

The engagement of both the students and the mentors helped generate genuine enthusiasm for today's workshop on career investigations, career choices and goals.

Thanks to the mentors for volunteering their time to help our 6th year pupils. Well done to all involved.

Science Week at Coláiste Chiaráin

Science Week 2024: Celebrating Regeneration and Discovery!
This year's Science Week theme, Regeneration, brought a buzz of excitement to our school with engaging events and inspiring activities for all year groups.

Macro Photography Competition

The highlight of the week was our Hidden Worlds Macro Photography Competition. Students captured stunning images using phones, cameras, and our brand-new digital microscope, showcasing intricate details of the world around us.

1st Place: First-year Tomás O'Sullivan, for a breathtaking shot of a Pāua shell, winning a €50 voucher.

2nd Place: Fifth-year Sarah O'Sullivan, for a captivating photo of her brother's eye, which seemed to contain its own Hidden World.

3rd Place: Fifth-year Gabija Jeseviciute, for a vibrant flower from her grandmother's Lithuanian garden.

Fantastic entries were displayed on school screens and will be part of a future public exhibition.



First-Year Trip to UL

Kicking off the week, all first years visited UL's 3D Planet Showcase, where they explored cutting-edge displays, asked thought-provoking questions, and had a memorable day delving into the wonders of space and science.

Second-Year Science Quiz

On Friday, the annual Second-Year Science Quiz was a fierce competition, with the winning team claiming victory and taking home the highly coveted selection boxes!

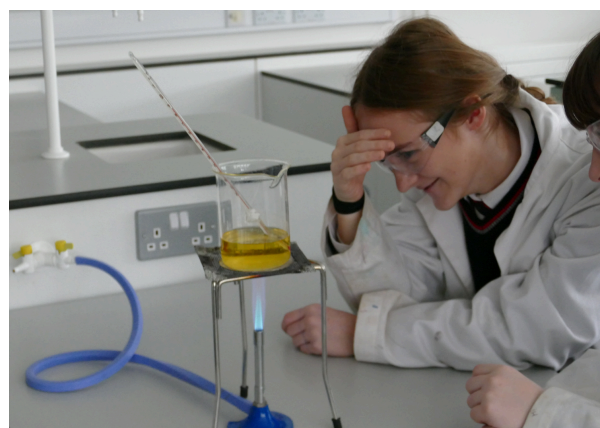
Third-Year Model Building Contest

Third years channeled their creativity in the Solar System Model Building Contest. We're eagerly awaiting the announcement of this year's winner!



Daily Challenges and Class Activities

Students across all years enjoyed solving trivia and puzzles in the Daily Science Challenges, including the new but popular What's Under the Microscope game. Congratulations to challenge winners Miles Bueno, Maksymilian Baranowski, Ryan Moloney, Ruben Massey, Andrew Svetlitsnoi, and Tomás O'Sullivan.



Isabelle Flies to Strasbourg

Form 3 Student European Studies student Isabelle Regan (& Tedd) flew off to Brussels with 24 students from around Ireland thanks to Graduate.ie and The National Directorate for Fire & Emergency Management. The group flew from Dublin to Frankfurt and then onwards by bus to Strasbourg. Over the course of three days they toured Strasbourg and spent a full day in the European Parliament while finding a little time at the end to do some shopping. This was a great opportunity to network with other students from around Ireland and to learn about the European Parliament. Tedd proved to be a great icebreaker too and was very popular amongst the other students! Isabelle told us that it was a great experience and she would definitely go again if she had the opportunity.



Parents' Council Cake Sale, and The Student Council decorate the school for Christmas



A Visit from Virgin Media

This month, we were thrilled to welcome Áine Ní Chaoindealbháin, Managing Director of Virgin Media TV, to CCO Studios. Áine had the opportunity to meet students from every year group, from 1st to 6th year, as she admired their creative projects and offered valuable feedback. She also toured our state-of-the-art studios and learned about the dynamic media course developed by Mr. O'Keeffe.

Áine was particularly impressed by the outstanding shows and films produced by Coláiste Chiaráin students. Be sure to check out the incredible work on Instagram (@ccostudiosmedia), Twitter (@ccostudiosmedia), and long-form content on the Coláiste Chiaráin YouTube Channel, where we released 12 Christmas themed videos in 12 days. These amazing projects were created by talented 3rd-year students Mildred Prempeh, Paddy O'Connell, Luiza Castro, and Julia Korutchak.

We're also gearing up for the Fresh Film Festival next month, with multiple exciting projects in production, and hope to share them with the public very soon. In the meantime, don't miss "The Pretence to Perfection" by Miles Bueno and Sarah Hurley, now available on all platforms! Follow our socials for updates.



Recycling at Coláiste Chiaráin

Coláiste Chiaráin has introduced a new “Bin Better” system in the school. Staff and students are asked to use the newly specifically designated bins. Assemblies were held for all year groups explaining how to use the 5 different types of bins. The benefits for doing this were explained and a questions and answers section followed allowing opportunities to clear up some of the confusion in this area. Discussions were held about the hierarchy of waste management. 1.Prevent, 2. Reduce, 3. Reuse. 4. Recycle and 5. Recover

We would encourage all members of the school community to use this system when in the school and beyond the school gates

5 Types of Bin

- **General Waste: Grey label (if in doubt use this)**
- **Food: Brown Label (can also take compostable items)**
- **Recycling: Green label. CLEAN dry paper and plastic**
- **Re-turnables: Orange bin (cans and bottles with returnable logos)**
- **Batteries: Bin by entrance**



The Polytunnel



The LCA1 class planted Grape Hyacinths and Crocus' under the two Lime trees out the front of the school. The LCA2 planted the Chinese Garden. Both groups planted 150 onion sets in the Polytunnel.



Transition Year Activities

Ice Skating



Transition Year/ First Year Mentoring Programme



TY Sleepover in aid Of Focus Ireland



LCA 2 Fundraiser Success!

Our LCA2 students showed their festive spirit by organising a fundraiser for the Irish Lung Fibrosis Association. They delivered personalised candy canes to friends of your choice, spreading joy and raising an impressive €75 in just one day!

A big thank you to everyone who supported this great cause.



Guidance Department was delighted to welcome Ms. Mairead Harnett, People & Culture Manager with Croom Medical, on campus today to work with our Year 5 students..

Fantastic to welcome back past pupil and Shannon College of Hotel Management Graduate, Stefan Maidment, to speak to our students as part of College Awareness Week.

Stefan's educational journey highlights the scope for changing pathway to find your true passion.



Form 3 student Liam Costelloe recently, recording his well deserved Garda Youth Award!

Well done Liam.

We are super proud of you



Rehearsals in full swing for our 2025 school musical! Tickets on sale at The Limetree Theatre

Sports



Well done to our u16 and u19 boys who on 11th November won the South West boys league finals for both age groups. U-16 Alan Twardowski awarded the finals MVP scoring 36 points. U-19 Covenant Ero awarded the final MVP leading the team in blocks, rebounds and scoring 14 points.



Well done to our U19 who defeated Scoil Pol in the U-19 Regional Basketball Finals on 14th December with a final score was 23 - 40. Fantastic result girls.. Well done to coaches Ms. McInerney and Ms. Rowan also.

So lovely to be able to celebrate the huge achievement of Ms. Ellen Horgan who jointly captained her team, Truagh Camogie Club in the All Ireland Final on December 15th. Unfortunately they weren't the winners on this occasion but we are so proud of you Ms. Horgan!

