



NEWSLETTER



The official newsletter of Coláiste Chiaráin

Welcome

Welcome to the September edition of our Coláiste Chiaráin Newsletter. We are delighted to celebrate and showcase the many activities, events and achievements in the past month. From welcoming out first years to the school and celebrating our super Leaving Certificate Results, to an action packed month for our Transition Year students, we have had a very busy month.

Enjoy the read!

- WELCOME TO OUR FIRST YEARS , CLASS OF 2031
- LEAVING CERTIFICATE RESULTS
- SIXTH YEAR DEBS
- PARENT INFORMATION EVENING
- LAUNCH OF THE HOPE BENCH
- LCA HARVESTING THEIR VEGETABLE CROP
- EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES
- FIRST YEAR MENTORING PROGRAMME
- TRANSITION YEAR ACTIVITIES
- SPORTS UPDATE
- AND MUCH MORE.....



Welcome to our First Years



LEAVING CERTIFICATE RESULTS



Well done to all our students who received their results on Friday 22nd August. We are so proud of you all and wish you every happiness on your next adventure.



SIXTH YEAR DEBS

A wonderful evening was had by all, as our outgoing Sixth Year Class of 2025 celebrated in style. The Debs took place in the Greenhills Hotel and lots of fun was had by all as the students danced the night away!



1st Year Parent Information Night



1st Year parent Information Night was held on Wednesday, September 11, 2025, to help guide parents and students with their subject choices. The event provided valuable information to support students in making informed decisions about their academic future. It was a well-attended and successful evening, fostering collaboration between the school and parents.

First Year Workshop with Finn Chambers

Form 1 students have begun a 4 week programme with Mr. Finn Chambers (Psychotherapist/Lecturer).

The programme consists of psychoeducational talks focusing on inclusion, diversity and wellbeing and is part of their transition to secondary school programme.



LCA Students harvest a crop of onions that they planted last November



LAUNCH OF THE HOPE BENCH

Light Up The City: Launch of the Hope Bench

On September 9th in Robert Byrne Park, Youth Social Innovators (YSI) students Jay Broe, Aoife Kelleher, and Ava Murphy officially launched the Hope Bench alongside LMHA's Buddy Bench project, with Mayor John Moran present.

Designed by local artist Kevin Maloney, the bench features calming blue tones, universal symbols of hope, and a powerful message: "There is hope." It also provides emergency contact details on a sign placed across from the bench. Furthermore, there is a QR code linking to the Limerick Mental Health Association website where people in need can find free support. More than just a seat, it has already become a landmark of hope in Limerick - offering reflection, support and connection.

The students' project was shortlisted to pitch at the Young Social Innovators of the Year Awards, and they raised over €1,000 for local mental health charities. Their work is already making a meaningful impact, reducing stigma and opening up conversations around mental health in our community.

This year, our current TY YSI students will continue the Light Up The City project, carrying forward its mission of compassion and hope. Thank you to Mr. Maloney for coordinating this project.



European Day of Languages

European Day of Languages – Boules Final!
To celebrate European Day of Languages (26th September), our Form 5 students swapped books for boules and battled it out on the court! Spanish, French, German and Italian students competed for a place in the grand final. Yesterday's showdown saw Alisha Twomey (Spanish) take the crown – huge congratulations to her and to coach Ms Cusack!

Pétanque (Boules) is a simple, fun and fiercely competitive game. Players throw metal balls (boules) aiming to land as close as possible to the small wooden target ball (the cochonnet or “little pig”). Closest wins the points – and sometimes a well-aimed throw can knock your opponent's ball away. Strategy, precision, and a touch of flair all come into play!

Held every year on 26 September, this day celebrates Europe's incredible linguistic and cultural diversity. It's all about encouraging language learning, appreciating different cultures, and having fun with communication – something our boules competition captured perfectly.

Well done again to Alisha and Ms Cusack – champions of both language and play!



European Day of Languages

First Year Table Quiz

Also in celebration of European Day of Languages (26th September), the TY MFL team organised a fun and interactive table quiz for all 1st year students. The idea was to highlight the diversity yet similarity of the European languages that the 1st year students were studying as part of their taster options.

The TY students hoped that the quiz would be challenging but fun; it did not disappoint. The questions were cross-curricular, focusing on vocabulary, culture, Geography, History and famous people.

The TY team, under the guidance of the MFL teachers, wrote the questions, set up the GP area, put the 1st years into groups, called out the questions and corrected them. Bravo to all involved, especially Team 32, made up of Edward Liston, Billy Shine and William McAuliffe, who battled stiff competition to be crowned overall winners. It was a tight contest, as Team 27, consisting of Adam Ahern, Adon Chacko, Andy Ryan, and Jess Twomey, were narrowly beaten by just one point.

It was more than just a quiz — it was a celebration of Europe's rich linguistic heritage.



TRANSITION YEAR ACTIVITIES

Our Transition Year students had an action packed September. They had a day out in Ballyhass Outdoor Pursuits Activity Centre, a day of hiking in Killarney National Park and even got to take the annual trip to The Ploughing Championships!



Ploughing
Championships
2025



TRANSITION YEAR TRIP TO KILLARNEY

On September 25th, our TY Students set off for an autumn adventure to Killarney, and it turned out to be a day to remember!

The highlight of the trip was the gorgeous waterfall, the kind you only see in nature documentaries. Surrounded by lush green trees and vibrant autumn leaves, the view was breathtaking. The students took plenty of photos, but no picture could truly capture how peaceful and stunning it felt in person.

Next, they made their way to Muckross House, a historic estate nestled in Killarney National Park. The house was beautiful, but it was the surrounding nature that really stood out. The students and teachers wandered along the trails, soaking in the fresh air and vibrant autumn colours.

All in all, students had a wonderful time in the great outdoors; many thanks too to the staff who accompanied the students.



First Year Mentoring Programme

Our first year Mentoring Programme is up and running. This is a wonderful programme where our Transition Year students volunteer to be involved in this “Buddy System”. It helps our first year students to settle in to secondary school as they meet their mentor regularly. They play board games at lunch time on Wednesdays and they also had a fun activity session on Monday 29th. Thank you to Ms. Bourke, Ms. O’Brien and Ms. Horgan for coordinating this.



Apprenticeship Culinary Taster Course

TY students had the opportunity to partake in an “Apprentice Culinary Taster Course” in partnership with the Limerick & Clare ETB Further Education & Training Hub. This is a wonderful opportunity for students as they get to experience group cookery classes with professional chefs such as Mr. Tom Flavin. The programme runs every Wednesday from 9am to 1pm throughout the year in six week blocks. The classes consist of 12 students which are led by Chef Tom. Students get to witness and experience a professional skill set such as his, as well as develop their own skills each week. Students will make an array of dishes during the programme such as homemade granola, smoothies, spicy chicken burgers, curry and parsnip soup, sticky toffee pudding, chocolate chip cookies and brownies to name a few. This course endeavours to provide students with the necessary materials and mentorship to explore their potential culinary talents and the possibility of cheffing as a career path. It also enables students to build confidence in the kitchen and enter competitions at a regional level throughout the year.



Sports Update

- September 19th - Girls Junior Football had a great win over GCL 8-10 to 7-09
- September 22nd - Girls Under 16 Basketball Team had a great win over Hospital 46-21 points
- September 24th - Munster Junior Camogie Blitz
- September 26th U19 Boys Soccer in the North Munster Group played Pallaskenry. They were narrowly defeated 3-2
- September Senior Ladies Football Team played Ardscoil Mhuire and won 13-04 to 6-12

