



# NEWSLETTER



*The official newsletter of Coláiste Chiaráin*

## Welcome

Welcome to the January edition of our Coláiste Chiaráin Newsletter. We are delighted to celebrate and showcase the many activities, events and achievements in the past month. From celebrating great success at the Stripe Young Scientist and Technology Competition to performing two sell out shows of our Annual school musical at the Lime Tree Theatre and much more. We have had an action packed month. Enjoy the read!

- SCHOOL MUSICAL “NEWSIES” IN THE LIME TREE THEATRE
- ARGENTINIAN VISIT TO COLÁISTE CHIARÁIN
- STRIPE YOUNG SCIENTIST & TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION
- COLÁISTE CHIARÁIN CHESS CLUB
- STUDENT FUNDRAISER FOR NOVAS
- FÉILE LUIMNIGH
- LAUNCHING OF THE COLÁISTE CHIARÁIN GARDENING CLUB
- NORTHERN TRUST / BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY LAUNCH
- BRIARY GAP LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT COMPETITION
- AND MUCH MORE...



# COLÁISTE CHIARÁIN BRINGS BROADWAY ENERGY TO THE STAGE WITH “DISNEY NEWSIES JR.”

On Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th January, The Lime Tree Theatre was alive with excitement as students took to the stage to present their annual school musical. Disney Newsies Jr. delivered an energetic and heartfelt performance that captivated audiences from start to finish during the matinee and two further performances on Friday and Saturday night.

Set in the bustling streets of New York City at the turn of the twentieth century, “Newsies tells the rousing story of Jack Kelly, a charismatic young newsboy who leads a ragged band of “newsies” dreaming of a better life beyond the hardship of the streets. When powerful publishing titans Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst raise the cost of newspapers at the boys’ expense, Jack and his fellow newsies find the courage to stand up for what is right, uniting children from across the city in a strike that becomes a fight for fairness, dignity and hope.

Under the dedicated guidance of the school’s music and drama teachers, the cast brought the story vividly to life with impressive singing, sharp choreography and confident performances. From the opening number to the final curtain call, the audience was treated to a whirlwind of energy, humour and emotion, with many standout moments that drew spontaneous applause and cheers.

Particularly striking was the way in which the production highlighted themes that still resonate today – courage in the face of injustice, the power of unity and the importance of speaking out when something is wrong. For many in the audience, it was inspiring to see young performers so convincingly portray these powerful ideas on stage.

The production was also a testament to the teamwork behind the scenes. Set designers, costume coordinators, lighting and sound crews worked tirelessly to recreate the atmosphere of old New York, transforming the school hall into a lively cityscape filled with newsstands, alleyways and bustling street life.

The Principal and staff praised the students for their commitment and professionalism throughout weeks of rehearsals, noting the confidence and friendships that developed along the way. Parents and guests echoed this sentiment, describing the show as “uplifting,” “highly entertaining” and “a credit to the entire school community.”

With Disney Newsies Jr., Coláiste Chiaráin has once again demonstrated the talent, creativity and spirit that flourish within its walls. As the final notes rang out and the cast took their bows to a standing ovation, it was clear that this production will be remembered as a highlight of the school year – a triumphant celebration of youth, teamwork and the power of standing up for what’s right.





Coláiste Chiaráin - Production of Newsies Jr - 2026

*“What an amazing Performance!”*



# ARGENTINIAN VISIT TO COLÁISTE CHIARÁIN

On the morning of 16th January, Coláiste Chiaráin was delighted to welcome a group of 17 Argentinian students, mainly from Buenos Aires, along with their teachers and excursion organiser Fernando Carro, to our school. From the moment they arrived, there was a warm and friendly atmosphere, and it quickly became a very enjoyable and memorable visit for everyone involved.



The Argentinian students shared fascinating information about their culture, traditions, sport and music, giving us a real flavour of life in Argentina. Their presentations sparked great interest and plenty of conversation, especially around sport and music, which we clearly have in common! It was wonderful for Ms. Cusack and Ms. O'Sullivan to see the interaction between students and watch friendships being made.



Our Transition Year students were equally as enthusiastic. They spoke about themselves, daily life in Coláiste Chiaráin, and shared some interesting and fun facts about Limerick, helping our visitors get to know our city better.



A highlight of the morning was the strong sense of friendship and language exchange. Students chatted comfortably, mixing English and Spanish, and showing just how important Spanish – and all languages – are to us as a way of communicating, connecting, and learning from one another. There was also plenty of food tasting: our Argentinian guests treated us to a delicious tarta, we shared mate tea (green tea) in true Argentinian tradition, and we proudly introduced them to a very Irish classic – the Tayto sandwich! As this is a yearly event at Coláiste Chiaráin, it continues to be a valuable and much-loved opportunity to celebrate culture, language and friendship year after year.



# Great Success at Stripe Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition

The Stripe Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition took place from 9th-10<sup>th</sup> January. Coláiste Chiaráin in the RDS, Dublin and we had a total of 6 projects.

## Senior Technology

- Sarah Hurley & Miles Bueno – PowerPredict (Predicting outages up to 10 days in advance).
- Matthew Furlong & Liam Power – SmartSpecs.

## Senior Biological & Ecological

- Amina Costello – Watersense: A predictive surface water monitoring system using machine learning and Arduino.

## Senior Technology

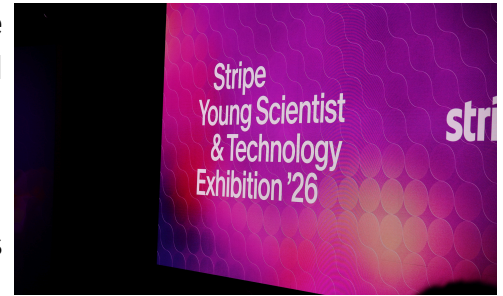
- Chloe Danaher, Liam Costello & Adam Sheehan – Grammar Maketh Man (Coding a Chrome extension to optimise ChatGPT queries).

## Junior Technology

- Tomás O’Sullivan – Chirp: A low-cost approach to bat monitoring using AI audio analysis.

## Junior Health & Wellbeing

- John Shanahan – Public awareness and reaction to presumed consent for organ donation in Ireland.



# Stripe Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition

We are so proud of you all and to your mentors, Ms. Farrell, Mr. Lacey and Mr. Ryan.

*And The Award Goes to.....*



**SENIOR TECHNOLOGY - 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE WINNERS**

**AERCAP SPECIAL AWARD**

Sarah Hurley & Miles Bueno

**PowerPredict**

(Predicting Outages Up to 10 Days in Advance)



**JUNIOR HEALTH & WELLBEING  
HIGHLY COMMENDED**

**John Shanahan**

Public Awareness and Reaction  
to Presumed Consent for Organ  
Donation in Ireland



COLÁISTE CHIARÁIN  
Stripe YSTE 2026



**JUNIOR TECHNOLOGY - 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE CATEGORY WINNER**

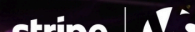
Tomás O' Sullivan

**Chirp**

A Low Cost Approach to bat monitoring using AI Audio Analysis



COLÁISTE CHIARÁIN  
Stripe YSTE 2026



# COLÁISTE CHIARÁIN CHESS CLUB

On 26th January, Coláiste Chiaráin enjoyed a very successful day at the Chess Z tournament, which was hosted by St Munchin's College. Both of our Minor teams finished joint first place, while our Major teams placed 4th and 5th overall.

Sincere thanks to mentor teachers Ms. Power and Mrs. Danagher for their guidance and support.



## Student Council Fundraiser for NOVAS

Coláiste Chiaráin Student Council was delighted to present a donation of €494 to NOVAS, Limerick, following a very successful Christmas Jumper Day organised in the school before the holidays. Students and staff showed great generosity and festive spirit by taking part in the event, which raised much-needed funds for this important local charity.

On January 16th, a presentation was made in the school to Katharina from NOVAS, who spoke to students about the vital work the organisation does in supporting people experiencing homelessness. The Student Council would like to thank everyone who contributed to making this fundraiser such a success and for supporting such a worthwhile cause. Thank you to Ms. Hanley for coordinating the event.



# Féile Luimnigh 2026

Coláiste Chiaráin returned to Féile Luimnigh this year and came home with a collection of medals and commendations. The Féile Luimnigh Speech and Drama competitions took place in Mungret College from Wednesday 21st to Saturday 24th January. This annual Limerick-based arts and cultural festival aims to promote and encourage creativity in speech, drama, singing, and instrumental music.

Students from Form I and Form II competed in a wide range of events throughout the festival and were recognised for their outstanding performances. Evan McNamara and Jan Tyloch were both awarded Highly Commended certificates for their recitation of “Fairytale” in the U14 Boys solo verse competition. Jovana Jeevan also received a Highly Commended certificate for her performance of the same poem in the U14 Girls Solo Verse category.

Well done to Blaithín Kiely, who earned a bronze medal for her powerful performance of “The Railway Children” by Seamus Heaney and finally congratulations to Mishaelle Nyangari, who won a silver medal in the U14 Girls Solo Verse competition.

Teacher Ms. Mary-Kate Hanley said that “the standard of the competitors was exceptionally high and I’m so proud of all the Coláiste Chiaráin students who gave wonderful performances. It’s not easy getting up there in front of an audience! We are absolutely thrilled with the prizes we received and we are looking forward to next year already!”



# Launching of Coláiste Chiaráin's Gardening Club

January marked the exciting launch of our brand-new Gardening Club!

Students got stuck in straight away by preparing the polytunnel and sewing a variety of seeds for the months ahead, such as tomatoes, sweet peppers, lupins and snap dragons. The students also learned the importance of organisation in gardening by making clear labels for each seed tray.

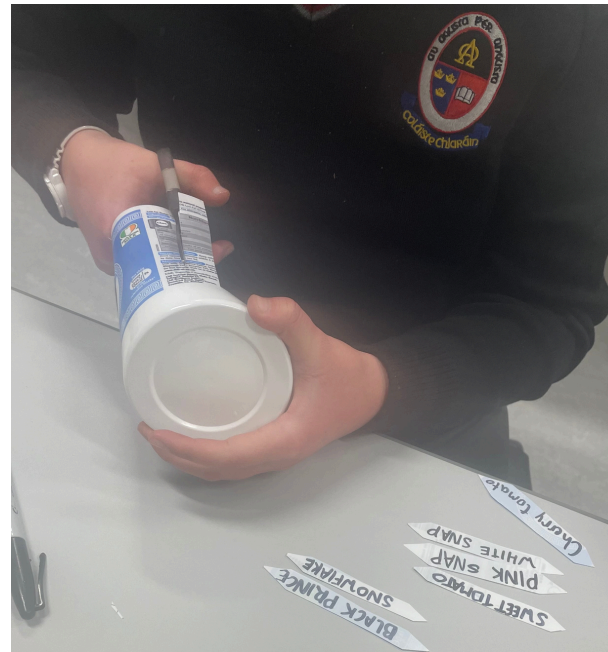
It was great to see such enthusiasm and teamwork as everyone took their first steps in growing our own plants. Over the coming weeks, the gardening club will be monitoring germination, learning how to care for seedlings and planning what to plant outdoors in spring. A promising start to what we hope will be a very green year!

All are welcome to join our new club!. Thank you to Ms. McCarthy for organising this club which is both educational and great fun!

**When:** Mondays at Senior Lunch, Tuesdays at Junior Lunch

**Where:** In the Polytunnel

**Garden Committee:** Jack Keane, Joshua Liu, Abigail Manosina, Katelyn Power, Elizabeth Mylko, Nora Bueno, Joshua Liu, Jack Keane. Missing from photo: Kate Powell, Bruno Ulej



# NORTHERN TRUST/BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY LAUNCH

On 29th January Coláiste Chiaráin saw the launch of the 5th Year Student Mentoring Programme, run in partnership with Business in the Community and the American financial services company Northern Trust. This partnership has been running for the last six years, so it was wonderful to continue it again this year.

This initiative has been designed to support students in developing essential soft skills such as communication, confidence, and self-awareness, while also offering a valuable insight into the world of work beyond the classroom. Through structured mentoring sessions, students will have the opportunity to engage with professionals, ask questions, learn from real-life experiences, and gain a broader understanding of potential career pathways.

A key focus of the programme is building meaningful connections between students and the wider community. By fostering links with mentors from Northern Trust, students are encouraged to explore new perspectives, challenge their thinking, and develop aspirations for their future education and careers. The programme also aims to facilitate learning through dialogue, reflection and exposure to professional environments.

This mentoring initiative strongly reflects our school's core values of community, holistic education, and striving for excellence in education. It supports the development of the whole student, recognising that personal growth, confidence and life skills are just as important as academic achievement. It helps give students the key tools to enable them to figure out their future path for life.

Today, students got the opportunity to visit the Northern Trust offices and to see firsthand what it would be like to work in the financial sector. They were warmly welcomed by Dubheasa Forde, Consultant - Talent Acquisition, before meeting their mentor for the first time.

We are very grateful to Business in the Community and Northern Trust for their continued commitment, time and expertise, and we look forward to seeing our students benefit from this enriching and inspiring programme over the coming months.



# BRIARY GAP LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT COMPETITION



After a fabulous run of our school musical "Newsies" on Wednesday the 28th of January, some of the cast ventured to Macroom, Co. Cork to compete in the Briery Gap Light Entertainment Competition. We were given the challenge of condensing Newsies into a 15-minute performance and we were delighted to showcase hit numbers such as "Seize the Day" and "King of New York."

The adjudicator was very impressed with Coláiste Chiaráin's performance, making the day very rewarding. Overall, it was an unforgettable experience and an amazing opportunity for everyone involved. Coláiste Chiaráin qualified for the final which will take place in the Cork Opera House in March. Best of Luck!



# TRANSITION YEAR FIRST AID WORKSHOP

A number of First Aid Work Shops took place in January which were delivered by instructors from Ballyhass Adventure Centre. The students learned about CPR and bandaging which will equip them with practical knowledge when needed. Our Transition Year students really enjoyed the workshop which was both fun and educational



## Form 1 Maths Competition

First year students participated in a 1st year maths competition in January. Students did really well as a whole.

We had 5 students receive certificates. Aisling Kingston in 1st place, Kieran Tomasko in 2nd, Isabel O'Brien, Luke Russel and Eoin Tierney in 3rd place.

## Amina Speaks at the EU Parliament

Huge congratulations to **Amina Costello** who spoke to the EU Parliament in Strasbourg. Amina proudly represented

**Limerick Central Rotary** as a youth Leader of the future, an inspiring voice on a European Stage



# Sports Update

- 7/1/26: Rugby: Giles Shield - U16s vs Abbey CBS. Unfortunately we were not successful on this outing
- 8/1/26: Under 17 Boys Soccer Versus Versus Rathkeale: Great Win
- 8/1/26: ;Junior Ladies Soccer - Limerick League - Vs St Anne's CC Killaloe. Unfortunately we lost this one
- 14/1/26: Form 1 Ladies Soccer - Limerick League - Vs SMI
- 15/1/26 Junior LGFA North Final v St. Patricks, Shannon
- 16/1/26: U16 Boys basketball All Ireland Qualifiers. The boys won and are now through to the All Ireland quarter final.
- 16/1/26: Under 15 boys Soccer versus Charleville: 2-1
- 19/1/26: Senior Boys Hurling Senior Luftansa Technik vs Gaelcholaiste Luimnigh> We won and are through to semi final
- 23/1/26: win foru15 boys soccer vs Caimins. 1-0
- 23/1/26: u15 boys soccer vs Caimins
- 26/1/26:U15 Hurling vs Comeragh College
- 28/1/26:Junior Camogie v Millstreet. Win 3:10 to 3:01
- 29/1/26: U15s Rugby vs Abbeyfeale
- 30/1/26: U17 Mens soccer vs Hazelwood college 1/4 final Loss 7-5



***Under 16 Girls Camogie Team who were victorious over Millstreet in the South East Shield . The Munster Final takes place after the Midterm Break . Best of Luck Girls!***

# COLÁISTE CHIARÁIN

PRODUCTION OF

Disney

# NEWSIES JR.

Originally Produced on Broadway by  
Disney Theatrical Productions

Music by  
Alan Menken

Lyrics by  
Jack Feldman

Book by  
Harvey Fierstein

**EVENING SHOWS | 7.30PM | Friday 23rd January, Saturday 24th January 2026**

**VENUE: LIME TREE THEATRE, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick**

• TICKETS ARE ON SALE FROM THE LIME TREE BOX OFFICE •  
T: 061-953400 • [WWW.LIMETREETHEATRE.IE](http://WWW.LIMETREETHEATRE.IE)

Based on the Disney Film. Written by Bob Tzudiker and Noni White

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI