

Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB

NEWSLETTER

EDITION 22 - MAY 2026



DDLETB Showcase and Graduation Congrats Grads!

Through The Lens
Student Photography

DDLETB Awarded
KeepWell Mark

Show Racism
The Red Card



Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Dublin and Dún Laoghaire
Atha Cliath agus Dhún Laoghaire Education and Training Board

Scoil Choilm Community National School Show Racism the Red Card



This year, Scoil Choilm CNS had the privilege of hosting the flagship event for Show Racism the Red Card.

Show Racism the Red Card was founded in the UK in 1995 and is now delivered in Ireland under the leadership of the Immigrant Council of Ireland. The programme harnesses the influence of high-profile sportspeople to combat racism and promotes equality through educational resources, workshops, training, and awareness-raising activities for primary and secondary schools, youth groups, workplaces, and sporting organisations nationwide.

On 20th March, the Scoil Choilm community came together to “Wear Red” in a powerful show of solidarity. Wear Red Day provided an important opportunity to send a clear message that, as a Community National School, we welcome and celebrate diversity and stand firmly against racism in all its forms.





The day began with a whole-school assembly, where pupils heard from representatives of the Immigrant Council of Ireland. They shared personal experiences of racism and offered valuable guidance on how to challenge it within schools and the wider community. Local representatives, Cllr Ted Leddy and Cllr John Walsh, addressed the assembly and warmly commended the school community for its proactive stance in standing up to racism. We were also delighted to welcome Aisling Maher of Dublin Camogie and ambassador for Show Racism the Red Card, who inspired pupils with her message that respect, fairness, and inclusion are essential both in sport and in everyday life.

Following the assembly, senior classes participated in rugby training sessions led by Leinster Rugby coach Joe Carbery. Adding to the sense of occasion, Leo the Lion made a special guest appearance, much to the delight of pupils across the school. The day concluded with interactive and thought-provoking workshops facilitated by the Immigrant Council of Ireland, where pupils actively engaged in age-appropriate anti-racism activities and discussions.

At Scoil Choilm CNS, we are incredibly proud of our diverse and inclusive community. Our school is enriched by the many cultures, languages, and traditions represented among our pupils and families. These differences make our school a dynamic, welcoming, and vibrant place to learn and grow. Events like Wear Red Day remind us of the importance of standing together, celebrating one another, and continuing to build a culture of respect and belonging for all.

We look forward to continuing this important work and to celebrating future Wear Red Days together.

RISE-ing Together: Celebrating Inclusive Practice Across Our ETB



On April 16th 2026, we had the privilege of attending the ETBI RISE Showcase and Stakeholder Symposium, an event that brought together 200 schools and education partners, school leaders, teachers, coordinators and inclusion advocates from across the country highlighting how inclusive practice is already improving learning, belonging and engagement for young people across the system.

“As the DDLETB Inclusion Officer, I left feeling energised, proud and genuinely moved by the collective commitment to building more inclusive schools, schools where every learner is seen, supported and empowered.” Frances Shannon, Special and Additional Education Needs Development Officer.

The event, led by Johanna Fitzgerald and the ETBI RISE (Realising Inclusive Special Education) team in partnership with Mary Immaculate College (MIC), shone a spotlight on how provision mapping has evolved far beyond a planning tool. It is now a whole-school approach, one that strengthens collaboration, enhances leadership capacity and embeds inclusive practice at every level of the education system.

The atmosphere was one of genuine celebration. You could feel the pride in the room as schools shared their journeys, challenges and breakthroughs. It was a reminder that inclusion is not a programme; it’s a culture, a mindset and a shared responsibility.

DDLETB Schools Leading the Way

The RISE strategy supports schools to plan inclusively, collaborate within and across schools, and use resources more effectively for the benefit of all students. Schools at the showcase demonstrated clearer wholeschool planning, smoother student transitions and stronger teamwork, reflecting a shift from isolated supports to shared responsibility.

We were incredibly proud to have had a strong DDLETB presence at the event. Eight of our Community Colleges and Gaelcholáistí were in attendance at the ETBI Symposium

- Ardgillan College
- Castleknock Community College
- Coláiste Cois Life
- Gaelcholáiste Reachrann
- Coláiste Chillian
- Collinstown Park Community College
- Kingswood Community College
- Swords Community College

The 8 DDLETB Schools showcased their outstanding work through Provision Mapping posters, Ethos identity boxes and Teacher Leadership Programme initiatives, as well as photo displays from photography competition winners and video montages - all demonstrating what an inclusive culture looks like in action. Every school brought something unique, yet all shared a common thread: a deep belief in the power of inclusive education.

“The RISE event was a powerful reminder of what can be achieved when schools lead with compassion, collaboration and courage. I am immensely proud of our DDLETB schools for showcasing not just their initiatives, but their values. Inclusion is not an add-on—it is who we are.”
Mark McDonald, DDLETB Director of Schools.

Events like RISE reaffirm the direction we are moving in as an ETB. They highlight the importance of:

- Shared learning across schools
- Leadership that champions inclusion
- Structures that support every learner
- Communities that celebrate diversity

Most importantly, they remind us that inclusion is a journey we take together.

If you're feeling inspired, or curious, there are two simple ways to get involved:

1. Visit the ETBI website to learn more about the RISE initiative and access resources that can support your school's inclusive practice.
2. Get in touch with our Coordinator if you'd like more information, support or opportunities to participate in future Email: franceshannon@ddletb.ie





DDLETB Achieves KeepWell Mark 2026

Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board is proud to celebrate the achievement of the KeepWell Mark accreditation in 2026, recognising our ongoing commitment to creating a healthy, supportive and positive workplace for our staff.

The KeepWell Mark is an evidence-based workplace wellbeing accreditation developed by Ibec. It recognises organisations that place employee wellbeing at the heart of their culture and demonstrate a strong commitment to supporting staff across key areas such as leadership, mental health, healthy lifestyles, and safe working environments.

For an organisation like DDLETB, serving communities across Dublin and Dún Laoghaire through schools, colleges, training centres and youth and adult education services – wellbeing is central to our mission. Supporting staff wellbeing helps ensure we can continue delivering high-quality education and training to learners of all ages.

Achieving the KeepWell Mark reflects the collective effort of staff across the organisation who contribute to a culture that values:

- Health and wellbeing
- Positive and inclusive workplaces
- Professional development and support
- Work–life balance



Safe and respectful environments

The accreditation process involves a comprehensive and independent assessment of workplace wellbeing practices, ensuring organisations meet recognised national standards.

“It was a real privilege to lead DDLETB’s successful achievement of the Ibec KeepWell Mark accreditation. I was absolutely delighted to work alongside such committed colleagues; this recognition truly reflects the effort and dedication right across our organisation. It highlights the importance that DDLETB place on creating a culture where the health, safety, and wellbeing of our staff come first. We are also proud to be listed in the Top 100 Companies Leading in the Wellbeing Index 2026, in association with Business & Finance Media Group, Ibec, and The KeepWell Mark. We are delighted with what we have achieved together and look forward to continuing to build on this in the years ahead.” Aisling Crowley, APO Human Resources.

This recognition highlights DDLETB’s commitment to continually strengthening wellbeing initiatives and supporting our staff to thrive both professionally and personally. Congratulations to all staff who helped make this achievement possible.

Together, we will continue to build a culture where wellbeing, collaboration and community remain at the heart of everything we do.

Download the full index here: <https://bit.ly/4cYfezP>





A Night to Remember: Castleknock Community College Celebrates 30 Years

On Tuesday 24th March, the Draíocht Theatre played host to a truly memorable celebration marking three decades of Castleknock Community College, an occasion that beautifully captured the spirit and values that have defined this institution since 1995.

A Community Gathers

The evening brought together the heart of the College community: students past and present, staff both current and retired, parents, local representatives and distinguished guests. Among those in attendance were founding Principal Mr Tom O'Brien and his wife Mary, former Deputy Principals, Carmel O'Neill, John Hopkins and Mairead O'Halloran and former chaplain Sr Marie O'Reilly. The College also welcomed local Councillors John Walsh and Eimear Carbone Mangan, Deputy Emer Currie and DDLETB Chief Executive Caitríona Murphy alongside Director of Schools Mark McDonald.

Master of Ceremonies Daniel Pitcher, himself a past pupil and former LCA student, guided the audience through the evening with warmth and assurance, his presence a testament to the College's belief that every student's journey is unique and valuable.

From Humble Beginnings

Principal John Cronin's address traced the College's journey from its modest origins, 94 students, five teachers and boundless hope on that first September day in 1995 to today's thriving community of over 1,300 students, 120 teachers and 16 SNAs. The story began with

a small meeting at the BRACE Centre in Blanchardstown Village on the 3rd November 1994, where the vision for Castleknock Community College first took shape.

A Tapestry of Musical Talent

The evening's programme, masterfully curated by musical directors Aoife Staunton and Karen Conlon, showcased thirty years of musical excellence through performances that wove together past and present.



The College Choir, established in 1995 and a regular fixture at the DDLETB Festival of Music in the National Concert Hall, opened proceedings with a stunning arrangement of Shaun Davey's Ripples in the Rockpool, arranged by the evening's accompanist Dónal Dignam. Throughout the evening, the choir returned to deliver memorable performances of Tim Minchin's When I Grow Up—a piece they had performed at the National Concert Hall earlier in the month and the poignant May We Never Have to Say Goodbye, featuring soloists Joshua Doyle and past pupil Lara McDermott (Class of 2016).

Voices of the Past and Present

Recent graduate Eoin Behan (Class of 2025), now studying Musical Theatre Performance at Maynooth University, brought the house down with Stars from Les Misérables, while current students displayed remarkable versatility. Third Year Irish dancers Stella McGrath and Katie Dunne, both accomplished competitors at national and international level, demonstrated their skill, while Third Year pianist Zofia Jablonska, recently a gold medallist at the Arklow Music Festival, performed Chopin's Nocturne in E minor with accomplished grace.

Fifth Year student Darasimi Fajaiyeyomi, fresh from starring as Rizzo in the school's production of Grease last October, delivered a powerful rendition of There Are Worse Things I Could Do. First Year student Abiha Mansoor, who appeared on The Late Late Toy Show in 2024, performed Die on this Hill by Sienna Spiro, while Transition Year student Lucy Stack brought infectious energy to Good Morning Baltimore from Hairspray.

Alumni Return Home

The evening particularly celebrated the enduring connection between the College and its graduates. Harry Whelan, now at Maynooth University and performing with his band Bound across Dublin venues, shared his original song She's Gone. Emmet Rogers, a recent graduate with a passion for jazz, performed The Love Theme from Spartacus, while Maria Nasypanaya (Class of 2025), now studying Classical Vocal Performance at TU Dublin Conservatoire, enchanted the audience with I Dreamt I Dwelt in Marble Halls. Ivan Gillespie (Class of 2024) delivered a stirring rendition of the James Bond theme No Time to Die.

In a particularly touching moment, two former pupils who have returned as staff members, Ms Sinéad McCarthy and Ms Emma Gredley, performed Climb Every Mountain from The Sound of Music, embodying the circle of influence that defines the College community.

Instrumental Excellence

The Joyce Family, siblings Caroline, Adam and Luke, all members of leading youth orchestras performed Adam's arrangement of Pachelbel's Canon in D, while Leaving Certificate students Sam Monedero Egan and Adam Joyce, musical partners since the age of ten, brought dynamic energy to Piazzolla's Libertango, a piece they had been selected to perform at the DDLETB Festival of Music earlier in the month.

A highlight of the evening was the major debut performance of the College Orchestra, established in 2023 under Ms Emma Gredley's guidance. Their beautiful rendition of Shallow from A Star is Born demonstrated how quickly this young ensemble has developed.

Music at the Heart

The performances served as a powerful reminder of the musical legacy established by former Deputy Principal Carmel O'Neill, whose influence continues to resonate, not only within the College but through her ongoing work with the DDLETB Festival of Music at the National Concert Hall, now in its 25th year. Her vision has taken root deeply, shaping not just programmes and performances, but the very spirit of the place.

Honouring Service and Vision

A particularly moving moment came with the presentation to founding Principal Tom O'Brien, recognising his immeasurable contribution to the College and the wider Dublin 15 community. His early vision and ability to bring people together created the foundations upon which the College stands today, embodying the Irish proverb central to his philosophy: "Mol an Óige agus Tíocfaidh Sí"—Praise the young and they will flourish.

The evening also paid tribute to Daniel Pitcher for his skilful hosting and to Dónal Dignam, whose piano accompaniment provided a steady current beneath the entire programme. Special recognition was given to Aoife Staunton and Karen Conlon, whose careful curation and quiet devotion have nurtured confidence, strengthened voices, and built a sense of belonging among generations of students.

Remembering Those Gone Before

Time was taken to remember colleagues no longer with us—Brendan Kelly, Maurice Cody, Michael Stanley and Gina Emmett, as well as the visionaries from Rath Dara Community College, Michael Stanley and Paddy Scarlett, who first imagined students from their community performing at the National Concert Hall.

A Lasting Legacy

As the College Choir returned one final time to close the evening with ABBA's Thank You for the Music, a fitting choice, indeed there was a shared sense that this celebration had honoured not just three decades of history, but the ongoing commitment to every young person who walks through the College doors.

In his closing words Principal, John Cronin reminded the audience that Castleknock Community College has never sought to be extraordinary, but rather to be faithful to its students, its values of Courtesy, Respect and Responsibility and to its place within Dublin 15. As part of the wider DDLETB family of schools, the College continues the quiet, essential work of education: creating a place where young people are known, where effort is recognised and where, day by day, something worthwhile is done.

As the final notes faded and the audience departed, there was a profound sense that music at the heart of Castleknock Community College for thirty years will continue to bring people together in choirs, orchestras, concerts, and shared memories for many years to come.



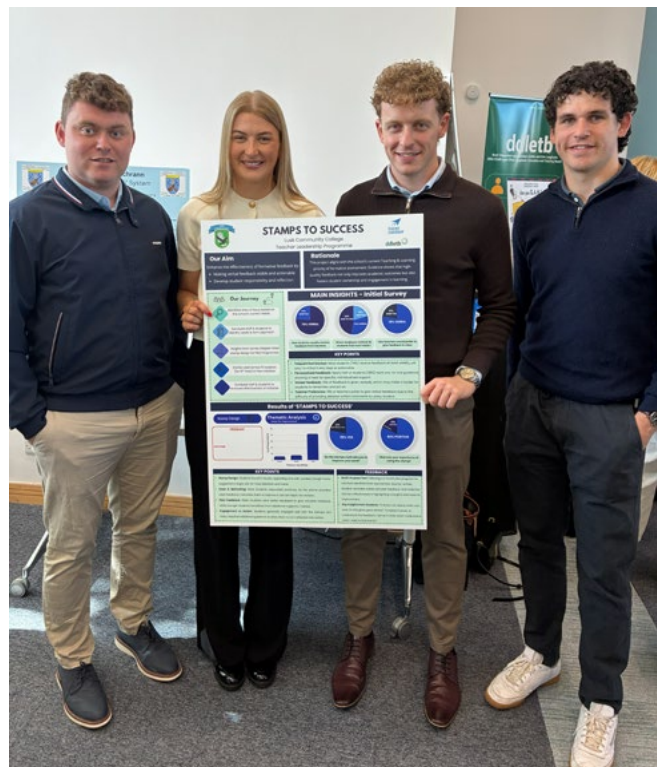
DDLETB Showcase and Graduation – May 14th 2026

The Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB Graduation and Showcase was a wonderful celebration of collaboration, leadership and inclusive practice across the organisation, bringing together more than 150 staff members, school leaders and Head Office colleagues from across the DDLETB community in Head Office.

Chief Executive Caitríona Murphy welcomed attendees and acknowledged the dedication and commitment of all participants and programme coordinators (Leadership Connect Coordinators Caroline Daly and Janet Murphy and RISE Coordinator Frances Shannon) as well as our DDLETB leaders who supported and facilitated Leadership Connect Programme sessions throughout the year.

During the 2025–2026 academic year, 23 school teams (over 90 teachers) participated in the Teacher Leadership Programme, alongside 27 Year Head Programme participants and 45 Middle Leadership Programme participants from our 31 Community Colleges and Gaelcholáistí.

Participants of the Teacher Leadership Programme displayed team project posters and resources, which reflected a powerful commitment to inclusion, care and student support across all projects. The standard of innovation and collaboration was exceptionally high this year, with three projects recognised as examples of excellence. Third place was awarded to Kingswood CC for their project on improving student handwriting. Second place to Firhouse CC for their work on supporting students through structured term plans and first place was awarded to Skerries CC for their development of a whole-school Consistency Charter that strengthened shared expectations and community values across the school. These projects exemplified the creativity, professionalism and student-centered leadership the programme focused on throughout the year.



Similarly, the 18 schools involved in the RISE/ Provision Mapping initiative showcased work focused on strengthening inclusive practice, reflective approaches and student support structures. Showing great creativity, care and thought in supporting all of our students.

The Showcase and Graduation also provided an important opportunity for staff to connect, exchange ideas, celebrate shared experiences and strengthen leadership capacity across DDLETB. Attendees also enjoyed viewing the winning entries from the student Ethos Photography Competition while networking with colleagues in a relaxed and positive atmosphere. Paul Turner, DDLETB Director of OSD joined Leadership Connect and Inclusion Coordinators in presenting certificates and awards to our TLP, MLP, YHDP participants and the 18 RISE teams and announcing the winners of the TLP project competition. We also celebrated the DDLETB GAA Inter-Firms Men's Senior Dublin Champions, made up of colleague's from across our organisation, who were presented with medals and a warm welcome.



Collectively, these programmes continue to play a vital role in fostering teamwork, professional growth, reflective practice, innovation and a strong culture of collaborative leadership throughout DDLETB schools and colleges. They continue to grow and evolve in response to the emerging needs of our students, schools and centres, ensuring that leadership development, inclusive practice and collaborative learning remain relevant and impactful across our organisation. The strong attendance at this year's Graduation and Showcase reflects the continued importance, success and value of these initiatives within the DDLETB community. The evening itself was a tremendous success, providing a warm opportunity to celebrate achievements, share experiences and connect with one another, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.



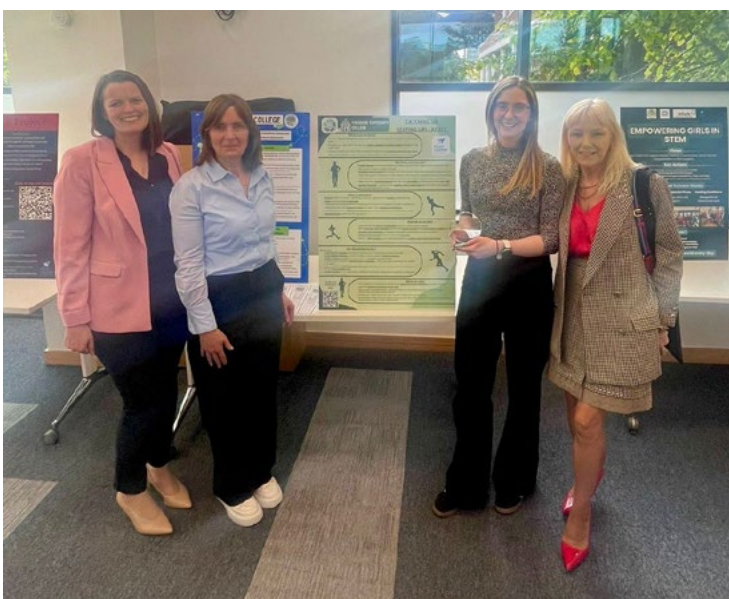
DDLETB Colleagues can view all the project posters here - [TLP and RISE Projects 2025-2026](#)



The Winners



1st Place
The Team at Skerries CC



2nd Place
The team at Firhouse CC



3rd Place
The team at Kingswood CC



Collinstown Park on the European Stage

Student Voice

This year in Collinstown Park Community College, we became a European Parliament Ambassador School and attended Euroscola in Strasbourg!

Eight 5th year politics and society students were chosen to become junior ambassadors by our Senior ambassador Ms Matthews.

Throughout the year we embraced and created awareness of EU values, human rights and democracy in the world today.

As part of the EPAs programme, we entered the Euroscola video competition. Our whole 5th year politics and society class got involved! Our video had to be about the dangers that spreading disinformation can have on young people. For our video we created a robot who represented fake online bots spreading disinformation. As our bot walked around the school spreading harmful disinformation, students came up to him with different tips on how to combat and identify disinformation online. As the video went on and our bot learned the dangers of disinformation, he shed his robot parts and became human again!

The European Parliament highly commended our efforts in this video, and this meant we won a spot at Euroscola in the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France.

Our teacher Ms Matthews and Mr Kennedy accompanied all 22 of us on May 4th to Strasbourg. We had an early start to our bank holiday as we had to all meet in Dublin AirPort at 4am! A short flight later, we landed in Frankfurt, Germany and got there at 8am. We were put into different groups, so we were all spread out all over the Hemicycle. This meant that we were sitting and chatting to students from 26 EU member states! The first part of the morning was getting to know the other 500 students, having a Q and A with the Vice President of the Parliament, and discussing the dangers of disinformation with Sara Ahnberg, a spokesperson for the Information Integrity Unit. Alex O'Brien got to ask the VP about the fuel crisis and what it means for Europe. The VP asked if we were worried about Ryanair! He was joking but then gave Alex a clear answer about the uncertainty of the crisis and how important it is for Europe to build up our own resources.

The hemicycle was then asked what ways we include European values in our schools. Holly Rafferty spoke about our EPAS programme and

all things CPCC has done in the last year for the EPAS programme!

After a busy morning, and a big lunch, we returned to the hemicycle and had the chance to be MEPs for the afternoon! Many topics were debated, such as disinformation and gender equality. Cían Geoghegan and Lennon Forte also discussed their views in front of the other students. Finally, Tristan McCormack shared his views on genocide as an Irish person, even speaking a bit of Gaelige in front of the Parliament!

We took so many photos around the Parliament. This day was a memory we never want to forget. Even after bowling and shopping in the French shops, all we could talk about was being in the Parliament! This trip was unforgettable, and a huge boost for our student voices. Hopefully, this will not be our last visit to Strasbourg or the Parliament, as some of us plan to go back to work there some day!



Student Voice, Talent and Community on Display at DDLETB Inter-Schools Events

This term, Head Office was transformed into a hub of energy, excitement and student achievement as we welcomed learners and staff from across DDLETB for a series of highly successful Inter-Schools Events.

From quizzes and debating to chess and Gaelige, these events brought together students from Community National Schools, Community Colleges and Gaelcholáistí to compete, collaborate and celebrate the many talents that exist across our ETB. Most importantly, they created opportunities for student voice, confidence building, friendship and belonging.

CNS Quiz Quest Brings Fun and Friendly Competition

Our CNS Quiz Quest in March was a fantastic day filled with laughter, teamwork and healthy competition. Six schools attended, each represented by two teams of 4 students from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes, creating a lively atmosphere from start to finish. We had Jenga and games as icebreakers, dance routines between quiz rounds and plenty of fun and noise!

Students tackled a wide range of questions, tested their general knowledge and worked together brilliantly under pressure. The event was a reminder that learning can be joyful, engaging and social, while also building communication skills and school pride. Well done to all students who took part, and congratulations to the winning teams from Scoil Choilm CNS, River Valley CNS and Scoil Aoife CNS.

Thank you all for a super fun day!

Debating Final Showcases Student Voice

The final of our Community College Inter-Schools Debating Competition on April 30th, was another standout event of the term.

Junior and senior teams battled it out with confidence and passion in front of an appreciative





audience of students, staff and supporters who were warmly welcomed through-out the day. The standard of speaking, critical thinking and teamwork on display was truly exceptional.

“The finals of the Junior and Senior DDLETB Debating Competition took place this term following months of competition involving almost 30 DDLETB schools from across Dublin. Beginning in October 2025, teams progressed through group and knockout stages before reaching the grand finals, underlining the exceptionally high standard and growing reputation of this annual event. Reaching the finals was a major achievement for all involved. Congratulations to Deansrath Community College and St. Kevin’s Community College who contested the Junior Final, with St. Kevin’s taking the title. In the Senior Final, Deansrath Community College claimed the prestigious senior title following a close contest with Swords Community College.



The competition once again highlighted the value of debating in developing confidence, critical thinking, teamwork and respectful communication. Students debated issues centred on equality, respect, care and community – values which reflect the DDLETB ethos. Just as importantly, the competition gave students the opportunity to connect with peers from across the county in a spirit of collaboration, mutual respect and educational excellence. Thank you to all of the students, responsible teachers, DDLETB Head Office and Hannah O’ Connor (Ardgillan CC), whose commitment and coordination made this year’s competition such a success”. Matt Corbett, Teacher at Deansrath CC.

Congratulations to all finalists and, in particular, to the winning teams from Deansrath CC at Senior Level and St. Kevin’s CC at junior Level.

Strategic Battles at the Chess Finals

Our Community College Inter-Schools Chess Finals on May 1st brought together 50 students from 10 schools for a gripping day of concentration, tactics and strategy.

Students went to battle on the board in a series of intense but respectful contests, demonstrating patience, resilience and sharp thinking throughout. Every move mattered as players planned ahead, adapted under pressure and showed great sportsmanship. Teachers took the opportunity to get involved and compete against each other and spectators from our head office team, particularly our IT department, were warmly welcomed.

The tournament highlighted how student success takes many forms, and how activities such as chess can nurture focus, confidence and problem-solving skills. 225 games of chess were played, but in the end, there can be only one winning team.

Congratulations to the winning team from Castleknock CC and the runners-up from Lucan CC on a superb display of skill.

Tráth na gCeist Celebrates Gaeilge Across DDLETB

Go raibh maith agaibh lenár scoileanna iar-bhunscoile a ghlac páirt sa Chéad Tráth na gCeist Idir-Scoile de chuid DDLETB ar an 23 Aibreán 2026 i dTamhlacht. Deis iontach a bhí ann chun an Ghaeilge a cheiliúradh. Léirigh na daltaí díograis dochreidte i rith an chomórtais. Comórtas thar a bheith teann a bhí ann, agus ní raibh ach pointe amháin idir na trí fhoireann is fearr.

De bharr go raibh an toradh agus an iomaíocht chomh cóngarach — agus toisc gurbh í seo an chéad bhliain — socraíodh gan babhta comhscór a reáchtáil agus buaiteoirí comhroinnte a fhógairt.

Comhghairdeas:

- An Chéad Áit Chomhroinnte: Adamstown CC (Éasca Péasca) & Coláiste Chilllain (Ceist me if you can)
- Dara hÁit: Coláiste na Tulchann (Na Slua le bua)
- Comórtas Tri Bond: Firhouse CC

- Buíochas mór leis an bhfoireann a d'fhreastail. Go raibh míle maith agaibh leis na daltaí as a rannpháirtíocht, agus go háirithe le Mr. Egan ó Ardgillan CC as a bheith ina Fhear an Tí den Scott ar an lá.

Another highlight of the term was the inaugural Community College and Gaelcholáistí Tráth na gCeist, which welcomed an incredible 18 schools to Head Office.

Inspired by the success of the Gaelcholáistí table quiz hosted during Seachtain na Gaeilge last year, we were delighted to welcome our 4 Gaelcholáistí alongside 14 English-medium Community Colleges for this wonderful day of fun and celebration of our national language.

The atmosphere was vibrant and welcoming as students engaged with Gaeilge in an enjoyable, meaningful and inclusive way. The event celebrated culture, language and connection, while showing that Irish belongs to everyone.

Why Student Voice Matters

Events like these are about far more than competition. They create valuable spaces where students can speak, lead, perform, think critically and represent their school communities with pride.

Student voice is central to successful education. When young people are given opportunities to participate, contribute and be heard, they develop confidence, ownership and a stronger sense of belonging. These experiences help shape future leaders, active citizens and engaged learners. These inter-schools' events strongly reflect the values of DDLETB: excellence in education, respect, community, care and equality and support our drive to create inclusive spaces for our students.

They show that learning extends beyond the classroom and that schools thrive when students are encouraged to explore their interests, challenge themselves and connect with others across our network.

A Special Thank You.....

Thank you to all the teachers who support our Debating Competition, Chess tournament and quizzes during the academic year and a particular thanks to Hannah O'Connor (Ardgillan CC) and Ronan Ward (Griffen CC) who coordinate the Debating Competition and Chess Tournament through-out the year. We are extremely grateful to Hannah and Ronan for their commitment to these initiatives.

A huge thank you to Food Village / Fresh Today for their generous support of these student events. Their delicious food and treats were enjoyed by participants, staff and attendees throughout the term and helped create a warm, welcoming and celebratory atmosphere at each event.

Support like this adds so much to the student experience, and we are very grateful for their continued kindness and community spirit.

Looking Ahead....

We are hugely grateful to the students, staff, organisers, judges, volunteers and supporters who made these events such a success.

We look forward to growing student events even further in the years ahead, creating more opportunities for participation, celebration and connection across DDLETB.

To every student who took part: thank you for bringing such enthusiasm, talent and positivity to Head Office this term. You represented your schools brilliantly.





Another Stand-out Term for Collinstown Park Sports Complex

CPSC has enjoyed another vibrant and highly successful term, with a strong focus on inclusion, participation and community engagement across all programmes.

In March, the complex hosted its first cycling session with ChildVision, welcoming seven legally blind students. The session was a remarkable success, with students fully engaged, confident and inspired throughout. Families travelled from across Ireland to take part, with many already booking return sessions. Following this very positive start, plans are now in place for a further series of weekly sessions in the coming months, along with an expanded summer programme. It marks an important milestone as cycling is introduced for the first time within ChildVision's provision, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

“Children who initially felt nervous about cycling left the session feeling empowered and genuinely delighted with their achievements. This outcome was only possible through the dedication, patience and care of Collinstown Park Sports Complex staff, in particular Helen, Jim, and other team members who volunteered their time to support the clinically blind students. They created a calm, safe and

encouraging environment where children were supported to try different styles and types of bikes at their own pace.” Caitríona Nic Giolla Eoghain, NCSE.

In April, CPSC proudly hosted the All-Star Dublin Féile in partnership with Variety Ireland, Round Tower Clondalkin GAA and Dublin GAA. The event brought together children and adults with additional needs and their families for a truly memorable day of inclusive sport and celebration. The programme featured a fantastic range of activities including fun GAA games and friendly matches, an animal pet farm, carnival rides, giant games, a silent disco, Lego and sensory zones, face painting, creative activities, and visits from Disney characters, alongside free food, treats, and refreshments for participants and families. The atmosphere throughout the day was warm, joyful and welcoming, with a strong sense of community and celebration.

Another stand-out event of this term and extremely proud moment for CPSC was the recent launch of the Clondalkin Autism Friendly Towns (AFT) Programme—an important milestone in supporting a more inclusive, understanding and accessible community for autistic people and their families.

There was a diverse and inspiring group of attendees, including community organisations, local businesses, disability advocates and public representatives. Among those in attendance were Adam Harris, CEO and Founder of AslAm, Minister Emer Higgins, Deputy Mayor Trevor Gilligan, and TD Shane Moynihan. The team were especially delighted to welcome many members of local disability groups, a number of whom we have had the pleasure of working with through the Bike Hub initiatives.

The Autism Friendly Towns Programme is designed to support communities in becoming more inclusive by fostering greater awareness, understanding and acceptance of autism. It encourages collaboration between businesses, services and community groups to create environments where autistic individuals feel comfortable, respected and supported in their everyday lives. The launch event clearly demonstrated the strength of this shared vision within Clondalkin.

We are particularly proud that Collinstown Park Sports Complex was recognised as one of the first Autism Friendly Town Champions in the area. This achievement reflects a sustained commitment from the entire team to improve accessibility and inclusivity across our facilities. As part of this journey, all staff members completed specialised autism awareness training delivered by AslAm, equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to better support autistic visitors and their families.

To qualify for recognition under the Autism Friendly Towns Programme, organisations must meet a number of key criteria and meeting these standards requires not only practical changes but also a cultural shift towards empathy, respect and openness, values that we are proud to champion at Collinstown

Park Sports Complex. Several practical and meaningful changes were implemented within the centre to enhance the user experience. These included the introduction of a dedicated quiet room to provide a calm, low-stimulation space, as well as the installation of a sensory wall designed to support sensory regulation and engagement. The team have also continued to build strong relationships with local disability groups, ensuring that their voices and experiences help shape the services provided.

The Team were especially honoured on the launch evening to receive two of the five awards presented, one recognising Collinstown Park Sports Complex and another for the Cycling Inclusion Centre of Excellence. These awards are a testament to the dedication, enthusiasm and care shown by staff, as well as the strength of our partnerships within the community.

The entire DDLETB Youth Team would like to extend our sincere congratulations to the Autism Friendly Towns committee for their outstanding leadership and vision in delivering this programme. We would also like to thank the speakers who shared their powerful personal stories, helping to deepen understanding and inspire action among all those in attendance. Congratulations to our fellow Autism Friendly Town Champions and thank you to everyone who contributed to such a positive and impactful event.

Alongside these standout events, the complex has continued to host a wide range of other activities throughout the term, each of which has contributed to a busy, positive and inclusive calendar, reflecting the growing role of Collinstown Park Sports Complex as a key hub for accessible sport and recreation in the community, a place where everyone feels welcome, valued and supported.



Active Youth Challenge 2026

The Active Youth Challenge (AYC), an annual initiative delivered by the DDLETB Youth Sport and Development sector, once again proved to be a fantastic celebration of participation, wellbeing and community spirit across the region. Now in its 16th year, the 12-week programme continues to encourage young people aged 10–24 to get active, build confidence and engage in regular physical activity through their local youth services and projects.

This year's challenge saw more than 40 youth groups from across the DDLETB region take part in weekly sports and physical activity programmes, with participation levels and enthusiasm higher than ever. The initiative welcomed young people from a wide range of settings, including UBU-funded youth services, schools and volunteer-led projects, highlighting the strong partnerships and collaborative spirit that continue to underpin youth work across DDLETB.

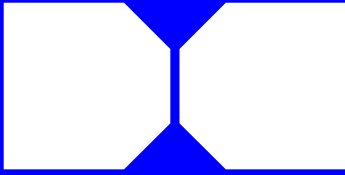
To mark the end of the challenge, all participating groups were invited to a special recognition event in May 2026 celebrating the commitment, energy and achievements of the young people involved. The event was the biggest to date, with over 250 young people from 38 groups attending for an evening filled with fun, sport, food, certificates and trophy presentations. The atmosphere throughout the evening was one of positivity, encouragement and celebration, as participants reflected on their achievements and the friendships and

connections built along the way. Collectively, young people involved in the challenge completed an impressive 380 hours of physical activity over the course of the programme. From team sports and fitness sessions to recreational activities and group challenges, the initiative provided valuable opportunities for young people to improve their physical wellbeing while also developing teamwork, resilience and confidence in a supportive environment.

The continued success and growth of the Active Youth Challenge is a testament to the dedication and enthusiasm of the DDLETB Youth Sport and Development team, alongside the many youth workers, volunteers, schools and community partners who support the programme each year. Their commitment ensures that young people across the region have access to inclusive, engaging and meaningful opportunities to stay active and connected.

Congratulations to all of the young people who took part in this year's challenge and contributed to making the 2026 Active Youth Challenge such a memorable success. A sincere thank you also to everyone involved in organising, supporting and delivering the programme and celebration event. The continued impact and popularity of the initiative clearly demonstrate the important role that youth sport and development programmes play in supporting the health, wellbeing and personal development of young people across DDLETB.





DUBLIN COLLEGE
FURTHER EDUCATION
AND TRAINING

Having a (Dublin College) Ball!

The first-ever Dublin College Ball took place on Friday, 27 March 2026, at the Royal Marine Hotel and it proved to be a night to remember.

With over 200 guests in attendance, the event marked the first large-scale gathering bringing together students and staff from across Dublin College. The evening was a great celebration of the growing unity within our newly merged college community.

The dance floor stayed lively throughout the night thanks to four outstanding DJs from Dublin College Dún Laoghaire (Lucy Savage, Dylan Sutter, Cian Courtney, and Jason Burke) who kept the energy high and the crowd moving.

Excitement also came in the form of giveaways, with more than 30 Dublin College hoodies up for grabs across two competitions: a raffle and a social media contest.

A special word of thanks to Audrey Power from Dún Laoghaire for her excellent work preparing the sound systems, and ensuring everything ran smoothly.

Thanks to Noel Johnston from Stillorgan and his son Daniel, who captured the night through videography and photography. Check out some of Daniel's shots!

Thanks to the Grapevine for this article!



Dublin College Sallynoggin TY Programme

Dublin College Sallynoggin recently welcomed Transition Year students from a range of partner schools, including Cabinteely Community School, Clonkeen College, Woodbrook College, St Laurence's College, Holy Child Community School, Clonturk Community College, and St Tiernan's Community School. This year marks the third year running of the highly successful TY programme. The programme, inspired and developed by Stephen Murphy, runs over two weeks, with students participating in either Week One or Week Two. Throughout their time at Dublin College Sallynoggin, TY students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in a diverse range of taster courses such as Sensory Activities for Young Children, Hair & Beauty, Crime Scene Investigation & Criminology, Personal Training & Strength Conditioning, Sports Injury, Sports Psychology, Art & Crafts, Acting for Theatre, Fashion Design, and many more.

Our current Dublin College Sallynoggin students also gain valuable experience through peer-to-peer support, working closely with the visiting TY students throughout the programme. This interaction not only enhances the TY students' learning experience but also allows our own learners to develop leadership, communication, and mentoring skills.

These hands-on taster sessions give TY students the chance to develop new skills, explore different styles of learning, and broaden their understanding of potential future career paths. The TY programme continues to be a valuable and inspiring experience for all who take part, helping young learners discover their interests and envision new possibilities for their futures. For more information get in touch with stephenmurphy@scfe.ie



How to become a Special Needs Assistant by Paula Davis

'A remarkable journey with Dublin College Tallaght Cookstown'

I completed my QQI Level 5 & 6 SNA qualifications between 2020 and 2022 at Dublin College Tallaght Cookstown (previously Tallaght Training Centre), right in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was a time filled with uncertainty, and studying online came with its own unique challenges, but I was resolute in my desire to finish and pursue a career that I am genuinely passionate about.

Our tutor Nicola was absolutely fantastic. Her support and encouragement were priceless. She made herself available to assist whenever necessary, keeping us motivated during a challenging time and ensuring that the entire experience remained positive despite the circumstances.

Since earning my qualification, I have been working as a Special Needs Assistant (SNA) in St. Aidan's Community School in Tallaght that operates under the joint trusteeship and patronage of DDLETB and the Loreto Education Trust. This has been an incredibly fulfilling journey. Each day brings different challenges, learning experiences and small victories that carry significant meaning. Supporting pupils and observing their progress fills me with pride.

The SNA course, delivered in Dublin College Tallaght Cookstown equipped me with confidence and foundations necessary to step into this role, and it has motivated me to continue advancing my education and career. I am currently exploring pathways to pursue a teaching degree to further my career and increase my ability to support students.

I highly recommend Dublin College Tallaght Cookstown to anyone considering SNA training. The support, encouragement and training I received have truly shaped my future.

Dublin College Tallaght Cookstown offers SNA Level 5 and 6 courses both during the day and in the evening. Two SNA courses are scheduled to commence in September 2026. For further details, please scan the QR code or reach out to us at tallaghtrect@ddletb.ie (day course) and taevening@ddletb.ie (evening course).

SNA -Level 5 (day)



SNA Level 6 (evening)



Draíocht: Where Magic Meets Learning at Swords Community College

On 25th February 2026, Swords Community College proudly marked the official opening of its new school library, Draíocht, a name that means magic in Irish. This inspiring space stands as a true centre of excellence, grounded in the school's core values of respect, teamwork, and resilience.

Draíocht reflects the many forms of magic within the school community. It represents the magic of discovery, as students engage with new ideas and knowledge. It offers the magic of quiet focus, providing a calm, supportive environment for reading and study. It fosters the magic of collaboration, where students and staff connect, share, and learn together. Above all, it celebrates the magic of resilience, encouraging students to grow, persevere, and reach their full potential.

The library was officially opened by Aoife Smith, Principal, and Colm Kilgannon, Chairperson, in the presence of representatives from the DAA Elevate Schools Support Programme. The event was also attended by the student library committee, the staff library committee, and Director of Schools, Mark McDonald.

This transformative project was spearheaded by the school library committee, building on their dedicated work over the past number of years. The project was supported through funding from the DAA Elevate Schools Support Programme.

A standout feature of Draíocht is its dedicated wellbeing section, designed to nurture students' mental health and emotional wellbeing. At its centre is a beautiful mural of the sun, symbolising warmth, positivity, and hope, an ever-present reminder that this is a space where every student is supported and encouraged to shine.

Draíocht is more than a library; it is a space where the magic of learning, connection, and personal growth comes alive each day in Swords Community College.



Ethos in Action: Celebrating the DDLETB Ambassador Showcase

At the end of April, we were delighted to host the Student Ethos Ambassador Showcase at DDLETB Head Office. A truly inspiring event celebrating the outstanding work taking place across our schools. The showcase brought together Ethos Ambassadors from schools across the organisation who proudly shared the initiatives and projects they have been leading throughout the year.

The event highlighted the many ways in which students have positively contributed to the culture and spirit of their school communities, bringing the core values of their schools to life through leadership, inclusion, and care for others. It was evident from each presentation that the ambassadors have made a meaningful impact within their schools and have embraced their roles with enthusiasm and commitment.

A particular highlight of the day was hearing directly from several teams of ambassadors as they spoke about what the role of Student Ethos Ambassador and our ETB Ethos looks like in their schools. Their reflections demonstrated the creativity, dedication, and sense of responsibility they bring to the role each day.

The showcase also provided a valuable opportunity for students and staff to share ideas, learn from one another, show off their identity boxes, and celebrate the important work being carried out across the network of schools. The event concluded with the presentation of the Ethos Flags to participating schools in recognition of their commitment to promoting and living out their school ethos.

It was a wonderful occasion filled with positivity, collaboration, and inspiration, and we look forward to seeing the continued impact of the Student Ethos Ambassador programme in the future.

The DDLETB Ethos Ambassador Programme continues to go from strength to strength, empowering students to become positive leaders within their school communities while promoting inclusion, respect and student voice across the organisation. For more information on the programme and to get involved contact our DDLETB Ethos Coordinator

Caroline Daly – carolinedaly@ddletb.ie



Through Their Lens: Celebrating Student Photography

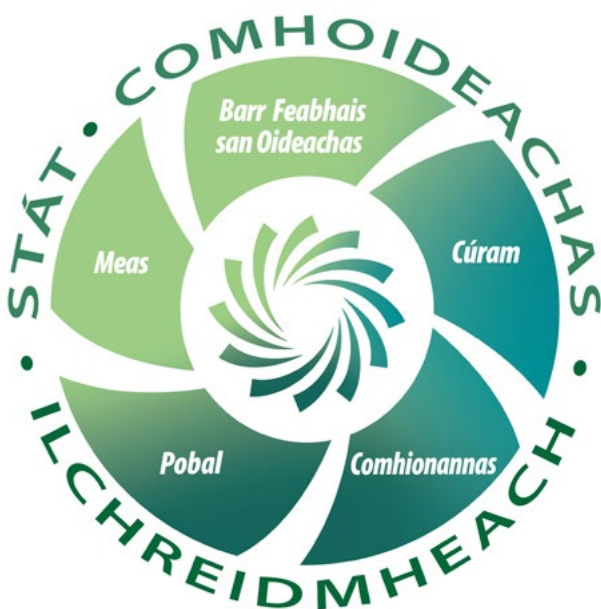
This year's Student Photography Competition received a hugely positive response from schools across the network, with students submitting an impressive range of thoughtful and creative entries. The competition theme, "Through Our Eyes: Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging in Everyday School Life," encouraged students to capture moments that reflect the welcoming and inclusive spirit within their school communities.

The quality of submissions was outstanding, with each photograph offering a unique perspective on what diversity, inclusion, and belonging mean to young people today. Through their creativity and imagination, students highlighted the importance of friendship, teamwork, respect, and community in everyday school life.

The competition showcased not only the artistic talents of our students, but also the rich diversity that exists within our schools. Many of the entries beautifully captured moments of connection, kindness, and collaboration, demonstrating how our schools continue to foster environments where everyone feels valued and included.

Judging the competition proved to be an extremely difficult task due to the high standard of work submitted. Each photograph told its own story and reflected the students' deep understanding of the theme and the values it represents. A special thank you to the professional photographers from Long Lost Designs - Creative Digital Agency who judged the competition.

We would like to extend our sincere congratulations and thanks to all the students and staff who took part in the competition. The enthusiasm and creativity displayed throughout the project made it a wonderful celebration of the vibrant and inclusive communities within our schools.





And huge congratulations to our competition winners:

First Place – Oriana Zmijewska, Ardgillan College

Second Place – Aoife O'Reilly, CP Setanta

Third Place – Ianna Puscas, St. Kevin's CC





Phibblestown Community Centre: Right in the Heart of It

Phibblestown Community Centre continues to grow as a vibrant, welcoming hub in Dublin 15. Located on a shared campus with CP Setanta and Scoil Ghráinne CNS, the centre brings together community, sport, education and youth services in one place—with a strong focus on inclusion and participation for all.

Since opening, we've hosted a wide range of events—from the General Election count and National Judo Championships to USKFI karate competitions, speed cubing events and family fun days. It's been brilliant to see the space used in so many different ways.

Activities for Everyone

On a day-to-day basis, the centre is full of activity. Programmes include:

- Basketball and Handball
- Martial arts and adapted judo
- GAA and Soccer
- Hip hop, Irish dancing and ballet
- Fitness classes
- Parent toddler group and Clonee Women's shed

We also work closely with childcare services on site and Foróige, creating a strong sense of connection across the campus.

Alongside this, we've welcomed Little Butterflies Arch Club, Inspireland Art Camp and – and we have a Lego club on the way. There really is something for everyone, all delivered in our modern, state-of-the-art facilities.

A Strong Community Feel

There's a great atmosphere in the building, with Shaka Vibes Café adding to the relaxed, friendly feel and it's a perfect spot to grab a coffee and catch up.



International Women's Day Highlight

One of the standout moments of this year was our International Women's Day celebration, which brought a fantastic buzz to the centre. The day featured a full schedule of free activities including:

- Pilates
- Women's self-defence
- Injury prevention workshops
- Crochet
- Fitboots

All sessions were delivered by local female facilitators and saw a brilliant turnout from the community. The energy, positivity and sense of connection on the day really captured what Phibblestown is all about.

Looking Ahead

We are delighted that work will soon commence on the astro pitch resurfacing, this is an exciting development and will be a major boost for local clubs, local schools and the wider community. We're also progressing plans for an inclusive cycling hub similar to that in Collinstown Park Sports Complex.

As part of DDLETB, we're proud of what we are building here, but it's your space too and we want the community to use our facilities and enjoy them as much as possible. We'd love your feedback—what would you like to see next in Phibblestown Community Centre?

Email markhealy@ddletbys.ie

Multicultural Day at Coláiste Pobail Fóla, 2026



We recently celebrated our annual Multicultural Day, organised by the Student Council and in collaboration with students and staff across the school community. The event highlighted the diversity and inclusivity within our school and provided students with an opportunity to share and celebrate their cultures and traditions.

This year's celebration was made particularly special by the visit of Uachtarán na hÉireann Catherine Connolly, who attended the event as our guest of honour. President Connolly was welcomed to the school by a guard of honour before meeting with Principal Joy Uí Mhurchadha, Deputy Principal Gráinne McCormack, DDLETB CEO Caitríona Murphy and Director of Schools Mark McDonald. She also met with the Student Council, senior prefects, and staff involved in organising the event.

Students created a wide range of cultural displays representing countries from across the world. Each table included traditional foods, flags, photographs, and information about the culture and heritage of the country being represented. The day also featured speeches, singing, and dance performances, showcasing the many talents and backgrounds within the school community. The event was further enhanced by the presence of visiting teachers from Italy, Tahitian students and their teachers who were staying with Transition Year students as part of the school's Erasmus+ programme. The visiting students performed a traditional Tahitian dance during the celebrations, which was warmly received by all in attendance.

A senior member of the Student Council addressed those attending and spoke about the importance of inclusion, respect, and celebrating diversity within the school community. President Connolly also spoke to students during the event and visited each display, engaging with students about their cultures, traditions, and experiences throughout the day. It was an incredible experience for our entire school community.

A special thanks to teachers Daniel Mullane, Eva Brennan, Tara Reilly and Naomi Montgomery for coordinating and organising the event alongside the Student Council. Also, a big thanks to all students, staff, and families who contributed to making the day such a positive and successful celebration.



Active Ardgillan - Ardgillan College receives Active School Flag

Ardgillan College is proud to announce that we have been awarded the Active School Flag, becoming the first post-primary school in North County Dublin to achieve this recognition. This milestone reflects our whole-school commitment to promoting physical activity, student wellbeing, and creating opportunities for every student to get moving.

The Active School Flag (ASF) is a Department of Education and Youth initiative, supported by Healthy Ireland, that recognises schools striving to provide a physically educated and active school community. The programme encourages schools to increase opportunities for physical activity throughout the school day and foster a culture where movement and wellbeing are valued by all students and staff.

At the heart of Ardgillan College's success has been the incredible work of our Transition Year Active Schools Team, led by Ms Murray, Ms O'Neill, Mr Forristal and the recently retired Ms Nealon. Over several years, they led and organised a wide range of initiatives across the school year to encourage participation, inclusion, and school spirit. One of the highlights of the year was our annual Active Week, a whole school celebration of movement and wellbeing. Throughout the week, staff took part in a highly competitive Steps Challenge, promoting daily activity and some healthy rivalry among teachers. The TY Active Schools team also completed the Boyne Camino, combining physical activity with teamwork and resilience in an enjoyable outdoor challenge.

Students also enjoyed a range of sporting activities during Active Week, including the ever-popular Ardgillan World Cup, which brought students from all year groups together in a fun and competitive football tournament. The event created a fantastic buzz around the school, with strong student engagement both on and



off the pitch. TY students also participated in Ultimate Frisbee training, introducing many students to a new and rapidly growing sport! The TY team successfully organised both Boys Squad and Girls Squad, which included a range of sporting activities to provide students with opportunities to take part in organised games. These initiatives were particularly successful in encouraging students who may not usually engage in extracurricular sport to become more active in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Another lasting legacy of the Active Schools programme is the introduction of the Ardgillan Active Schools Walkway. This mapped walking route around the school grounds encourages students and staff to incorporate movement into their day, whether during break times, PE lessons, or wellbeing activities. The walkway promotes the simple but effective message that every step counts.

This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication of our students, staff, parents, and wider school community who embraced the Active Schools journey with enthusiasm and positivity. Receiving the Active School Flag is a significant accomplishment for Ardgillan College, but more importantly, it marks the beginning of our continued commitment to building an active, healthy, and inclusive school culture.

We look forward to continuing to grow our Active Schools initiatives in the years ahead!

Celebrating Excellence – Ardgillan Whole School Awards Ceremony

On Friday 15th May, Ardgillan College proudly hosted our annual Whole School Awards Ceremony, a special occasion where we gathered as a whole school community of over a 1,000 to recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements, talents, and contributions of students across all year groups. At the heart of the ceremony was Ardgillan College's school motto, "Mol an Óige agus Tíocfaidh Sí". More than simply a phrase displayed on our crest, this is a living motto that shapes daily life in Ardgillan. Meaning Praise the young and they will flourish, it reflects our belief that when young people are recognised, encouraged, and supported, they develop confidence and ambition to reach their full potential. The annual awards ceremony is a powerful expression of this ethos in action, providing an opportunity to celebrate the many ways our students excel both inside and outside the classroom.

Students were recognised across a wide variety of award categories, highlighting the diverse talents and accomplishments within our school community. Awards presented included Student of the Class, acknowledging students who consistently demonstrate hard work, positivity, resilience, and dedication to their studies, as well as the prestigious Student of the Year awards, honouring students who have made an exceptional contribution to school life throughout the academic year.

Sporting excellence was also celebrated through the presentation of both Junior Sports Awards and Senior Sports Awards, recognising students who have represented the school with distinction while demonstrating commitment,

teamwork, and leadership. Congratulations to Sean and Aoibheann on winning the Junior Award and Taiye and Hannah on winning the Senior Award.

Academic achievement was recognised through awards such as Excellence in Science and Mathematics and Excellence in Technology and Engineering, celebrating students who have shown exceptional innovation, creativity, and problem-solving skills in these key disciplines. Well done to Cronan on being awarded Excellence in Science and Math's, and Shaun on being awarded Excellence in Technology and Engineering. Huge congratulations to TY student Willard on being awarded Highest Junior Cycle Results.





One of the most significant moments of the ceremony was the presentation of the Principal's Award, awarded by school Principal Ms. Ní Mhurchú. This year, the honour was presented to 6th Year student Adam in recognition of his exceptional contribution to school life and for truly embodying the pillars of Ardgillan College. Ms. Ní Mhurchú spoke of Adam's commitment to Ardgillan, dedication to his studies and the kindness of which he leads every day. Well done to Adam, we are very proud of you. Another much anticipated award was Rogha na nDaltaí – the Student Choice Award. Voted for by students across each year groups themselves, this award holds special significance as it recognises those who have had a meaningful and positive impact on their peers and wider school community. Congratulations to Ervin (1st Year), Ema (2nd Year), Sé (3rd Year), Willard (TY), Áine (5th Year) and James (6th Year). There were also three ethos awards; Spirit of DDLETB, Spirit of Ardgillan College (Junior) and Spirit of Ardgillan College (Senior). These awards were given

to students who embody our ethos each day. Congratulations to Willard (Spirit of DDLETB), Callum (Spirit of Ardgillan College Junior) and Darragh (Spirit of Ardgillan College Senior)

Our whole school awards ceremony also marks the changing of the guard amongst our student leadership team. After much anticipation, we found out who would be our new Head Boy and Head Girl for 2026/27! Huge congratulations to Harry and Holly, we wish you the best of luck in your new roles. Well done to Oisín and Laura on becoming Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl, and to Finn and Cali who will take the position of Head Prefects! Ms. Connolly and Ms. Collins announced our 30 new 6th Year Prefects, who also received their badges. Congratulations to all award recipients!

Well done to Ms. Collins and the Mol an Óige team on their organisation. Of course, a big thank you to Mr. Collins and Ms. McGarrell for hosting!

Firhouse Community College Celebrates Student Success at SciFest@School Fair

Firhouse Community College's Second Year students recently took part in SciFest@School, showcasing an impressive range of science, technology, engineering and mathematics projects. This year's event marked Firhouse Community College's third SciFest@School fair, and it was a great success. Parents and pupils from local primary schools also attended, giving students a valuable opportunity to present and explain their projects to a wider audience.

SciFest is Ireland's largest second-level STEM fair programme, it gives students the opportunity to investigate scientific questions, develop practical research skills, and present their findings to others. The programme also aims to make science accessible to all students, offering a free and inclusive way for young people to engage with STEM, regardless of background.

There were a great variety of projects on display at Firhouse CC, with students exploring topics such as colour dispersion, rates of rusting, mini volcanoes, bridge strength, plant growth, osmosis and bioplastics. The standard of work was excellent, and the students demonstrated great creativity, curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the event.



A number of projects received special recognition. Lucy Brennan won Best Project for her investigation, What Solution Will Rust Nails the Best?, and received a blue rosette. Kayla Whitley was awarded Runner Up for her project, Resistance of Spaghetti Bridge to Vertical Load, and received an orange rosette. Finn Malone won the EirGrid Cleaner Climate Award for his project, Decomposable Bioplastic, and received a white rosette, while Aisling Forrester received the Keenova STEM Excellence Award for her project on Makeup Removal, together with a green rosette.

The 20th Anniversary Award was presented to Libby Costello and Olivia Roche for their project, Gummy Bear Osmosis, and they received a navy rosette. Awards for Best Display went to Ella Grant, Miracle Okoh and Zara Byrne for their Roller Coaster Ramp project, who received a gold rosette, and to Ava O'Dwyer and Lily Perry for their investigation, How Nitrogen Affects

Plant Growth, who received a purple rosette.

The event highlighted the talent and potential of Firhouse CC's young scientists. The presence of parents and local primary school pupils added greatly to the atmosphere and gave the students a chance to share their learning with the wider community.

All of the science teachers at FCC are extremely proud of the students, not only for their achievements, but also for the hard work, imagination and commitment they brought to their projects.

DDLETB and Firhouse CC congratulate all students who took part in SciFest@School and look forward to seeing their interest in science continue to grow.

Visit <https://www.scifest.ie/SciFest@School/Index.html> for more information



Spanish and French Students Visit Mount Seskin CC

This March, Spanish and French partner students visited Mount Seskin Community College for an exciting cultural and educational exchange as part of Erasmus + .

The week was filled with activities designed to foster friendship, teamwork, and intercultural understanding among Spanish, French, and Irish students.

The programme included a warm welcome, some team-building exercises, an international lunch wonderfully catered by the Parents Association, and sports such as hurling, Gaelic football, soccer, and Irish dancing. We also had plenty of time for shared meals and social chats.

Our French and Spanish partner students had the opportunity to explore Dublin through guided city tours, treasure hunts, and visits to iconic landmarks and historic sites across the city, including the Book of Kells at Trinity College Dublin.

Creative workshops offered opportunities to engage with Irish art, folklore, and digital presentations, culminating in a final assembly at the school and a certificate ceremony celebrating students' achievements. The visit was a wonderful chance for students from all three countries to learn, collaborate, and create lasting memories and friendships together.

Firhouse CC Celebrates IMPACT Flag for Excellence in Mathematics

Firhouse Community College is delighted to have been awarded the IMPACT Flag, recognising the innovative and collaborative work taking place within the school's Mathematics Department. The award recognises the school's ongoing commitment to transforming Maths teaching and learning through its involvement in the Trinity Access Maths Programme, AMiS Erasmus+ and now the IMPACT Programme.

Over the past three years, the department has worked to create a more visible, inclusive and positive culture around Mathematics, helping students to see the relevance of Maths both inside and outside the classroom. Through real-world, task-based learning, collaborative planning and peer observation, students have developed greater confidence, resilience and engagement in Mathematics.

The IMPACT Flag recognises schools leading the way in promoting Mathematics through collaboration, creativity and student-centred learning. Firhouse Community College was commended for its long-term commitment to improving student engagement and achievement, as well as its involvement in cross-curricular initiatives linking Mathematics with Science, Technology and Engineering.



As part of the AMiS Erasmus+ project, the department has collaborated with partner schools in Austria, Sweden and the Czech Republic, sharing Units of Learning, observing classroom practice across Europe and co-developing resources. Recent mobilities included presentations on Geometry, Probability and Quadratic Patterns.

During this year's LTTA05 in Vienna, Monica Crossan, Seidina Delagic and Nadia McCormack presented a Coordinate Geometry Unit and delivered a lesson using Utility Value Theory to support student motivation in linear and quadratic equations, further strengthening shared practice among partner schools.

In March, project partners visited Ireland and were hosted in Trinity College Dublin for four days and Firhouse Community College for one day. The Firhouse CC team presented a lesson on area, perimeter and volume and facilitated a Fishbowl Protocol Activity showcasing collaborative discussion and cross-curricular learning between Maths and Science.

The school's work was also recognised for its whole-school impact, with learning from Access Maths and AMiS Erasmus+ shared beyond the Mathematics Department to support professional learning, collaboration and whole-school alignment. Following receipt of the IMPACT Flag, the department delivered a successful workshop at the IMPACT Awards Showcase, sharing its approaches and practical strategies for supporting student engagement, inclusion and confidence in Mathematics with other schools.

A dedicated Erasmus website will soon make all Units of Learning and resources freely available internationally, supporting continued collaboration and innovation and further recognising Firhouse Community College's contribution to transforming Maths teaching and learning.

Receiving the IMPACT Flag is a proud achievement for Firhouse Community College and reflects the dedication, creativity and commitment of the Mathematics Department, wider staff and students, whose enthusiasm has helped bring Mathematics to life across the school community.



Greenhills Community College: Recipient of Award from UCD School of Business

Armando Marc (Student Voice)

I really enjoyed my learning in the business studies classroom. I feel that the subject has given me life skills for the future which will help me as I transition into Leaving Certificate Programme.

I also know that the knowledge I now have will help me into the future should I wish to do a college degree. The topic that I enjoyed the most was the Economic Strand in the Business Studies course. I enjoyed all the other aspects too, but economics was my favourite.

I was awarded with a distinction in Business Studies at Junior Certificate, and I believe that the classroom teaching really helped me along with the studying I did too. I practised exam questions a lot and always did my homework to a very high standard, and I believe this really helped me achieve my Distinction in the subject. I would highly recommend Business Studies as a subject to take at Junior Cycle level as it prepares you for the future and shows you how the world works. I am extremely grateful to UCD Lochlan School of Business for the Award and to my Business Studies teacher, Ms. Donoghue.



Awards Season for Greenhills CC Students

Students from Greenhills Community College recently enjoyed great success at the South Dublin Enterprise Awards held in March, proudly representing the school with creativity, innovation and enthusiasm.

First-year students, Frankie Mooney and Jason Byrne O'Connell, were runners-up in the Junior Category with their sustainable business, JB Seasonal Plaques. Jason first came up with the original business idea and successfully sold all of his themed plaques during the school's Market Day. He then continued to develop the business through the school's Enterprise Club, a popular lunchtime initiative which runs every Tuesday from September to March each year.

Enterprise education is an integral part of life in Greenhills Community College, and it was wonderful to see so many students showcasing their talents on the day. Congratulations also to the students behind Tactile Play, a business focused on fidget toys for children with autism, and Jolly Jars, created by one of our TY students. Their creativity, teamwork and entrepreneurial spirit were evident throughout the event.

The students received a plaque, trophy and €200 in recognition of their enterprising efforts, and the entire school community is incredibly proud of their fantastic achievement. Well done to all involved on representing the school so positively and for demonstrating such imagination, determination and innovation.



Lights, Camera, Español! St Kevin's Duo Wins Spanish Video Competition

Warm congratulations to Arwyn Purcell and Cameron Russell from St Kevin's Community College and their teacher Carmen Perez, who claimed first place in the 2026 Spanish Video Competition. Their outstanding achievement has earned them a one-week language scholarship in Castilla y León, Spain, taking place this summer and including flights and accommodation.

As part of the competition, students were invited to create an original two-minute video in Spanish, creatively inspired by the region of Castilla y León. Entries were assessed on language proficiency, creativity and cultural awareness, with students demonstrating excellent engagement with both the Spanish language and the traditions and heritage of the region.

"We had a great time making the video, but actually winning first place was a big surprise. We'll make the most of this week and learn as much Spanish as possible".

Arwyn Purcell



Second place was awarded to Kayla Timmons and Israel Ifeoluwa Olanrewaju from Coláiste Pobail Setanta, alongside their teacher Carolina Fernandez-Garcia. In recognition of their success, the students and their teacher have also been awarded a one-week language scholarship in Castilla y León, including accommodation.

"Finally being able to put into practice the Spanish we've studied for years will make this an unforgettable experience".

Cameron Russell

The competition is a collaboration between Languages Connect, the Consejería de Educación of the Spanish Embassy in Dublin, La Junta de Castilla y León, and the Spanish Tourist Office in Dublin.

For more information visit www.languagesconnect.ie

Spirit of DDLETB Awards

This year, 20 students from schools across the organisation were honoured with the prestigious Spirit of DDLETB Award in recognition of the outstanding way they demonstrate and bring to life the core values of ETB schools in their everyday actions and interactions.

The award celebrates students who make a positive difference within their school communities through qualities such as respect, care, excellence in education, equality, and community. Each recipient was nominated by their school in acknowledgement of the meaningful contribution they make to school life and the example they set for others.

The Spirit of DDLETB Award continues to grow in popularity each year and has become a significant honour within our schools. It reflects not only individual achievement, but also the strong sense of community and shared values that exist across the organisation.

Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients. Their commitment, positivity, and leadership truly embody the spirit and values of DDLETB schools.

As another busy and successful academic year draws to a close, we would like to wish all students across our DDLETB community the very best of luck in their upcoming state, school and college exams and project work. Your hard work, dedication and resilience throughout the year have been truly commendable, and we hope you are proud of all you have achieved.

For those learners moving on to new adventures, we wish you success and happiness as you continue on your educational, career and/or personal journeys.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the entire DDLETB team for their continued commitment and support throughout the year. We hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved and restful summer (fingers crossed for continued sunshine!), and we look forward to bringing you more news and celebrating further successes in September.



Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Dublin and Dún Laoghaire
Átha Cliath agus Dhún Laoghaire Education and Training Board



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