

Coláiste Bríde

Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford

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A Chairde,

It has been a hugely positive start to the new academic year on so many fronts and once again I am able to reflect with pride on the dedication of our staff and the huge range of achievements of our pupils. I would like to take this opportunity to formally extend congratulations to our students who received their Junior Cert results in October. The students did exceptionally well and deserve to be very proud of themselves.

At our Opening of Year Mass we welcomed 138 students into First Year and it has been wonderful to see how well they have settled into school life in Coláiste Bríde.

For our Open Evening we experienced a record number of families visiting the school and I would like to thank all the students and teachers for making this such a great occasion. Open Evening is a really special event as we get to see and hear how proud our students are of their school.

We work hard to put our students at the centre of everything we do and over the next few weeks and months we will be engaging with all students as part of the creation of our five year Strategic Plan. We will also be asking for parental input into this process and look forward to hearing parents' thoughts on the future direction of our school. In Coláiste Bríde we strive for spiritual, personal and academic development of all our students. I am sure that you will enjoy seeing the evidence of this and reading about the wide range of opportunities offered to and embraced by our pupils in this edition of our newsletter. Finally, as always I am grateful to all our staff who believe so passionately in the power of education.

Kiera O'Sullivan, Principal

Latest News

Swimming



Coláiste Bríde was represented at the Senior Leinster Schools Swimming Championships by Ava Nolan, Ava Byrne, Abi Cullen, Holly Furlong and Ríoghna Hourihane. All girls put in fantastic performances securing eight top ten places in Leinster, including a well-deserved silver medal for Ava Byrne, swimming a fantastic race in the 100 metre freestyle. This is the

first year the school was able to enter a relay team. Swimming in the U16 category the girls were very unfortunate not to medal in their relays finishing fifth in the 200 medley relay and .09 of a second off third place to finish fourth in the 200 freestyle relay. A great

Upcoming Events

November 4

School Reopens

November 12

6th Year Parent Teacher Meeting

November 14

3rd Year Retreats Day 1

November 15

3rd Year Retreats Day 2

November 20

3rd Year Parent Teacher Meeting

November 25

Term 1 House Exams

December 6

School Closed

December 10

School Closed Junior Cycle

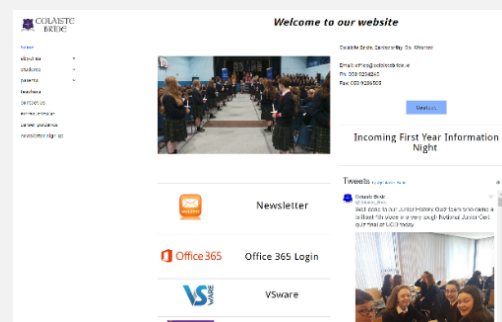
December 16

"I am Worth it" Week

December 20

Last Day of Term

Coláiste Bríde Website



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accomplishment for these young girls and we are very proud of their achievements.

Two of these students, Abi and Ava, have also been selected to train with the Irish Swimming F4 24 National Squad Swimming Programme with the goal of having an Irish relay team compete in the 2024 Paris Olympics. This is a really wonderful achievement from two hard working and talented athletes, two to watch out for in the future.

Soccer

Our minor soccer team beat Moyne Community School from Longford 4-3 in the first round of the Leinster Cup. They will play Alexandra College of Dublin in round 2. Our First Year soccer team finished as runner up in the Wexford County FUTSAL finals. The girls played 6 games to reach the final and were unfortunate to lose 2-1 to Presentation School Wexford in the final game and narrowly miss out on qualification to the Leinster Finals.



Camogie & Ladies Football

It has been an extremely busy period for our gaelic games teams with matches taking place for First Years, Juniors and Seniors. It has been great to see our newest students representing the school as our First Years did at recent football and camogie blitzes in Ferns. Our Junior Camogie team followed up their success at winning the U16 Blitz with a great win over Loreto Wexford in the Junior A championship. Having won the second-tier last year at this grade, the team have started their campaign at the top level on a very high note. We would also like to thank Lidl Enniscorthy for sponsoring a set of Ladies Football jerseys and equipment for the school. Finally, congratulations to all the local camogie and ladies football teams who competed in county finals over the last few weeks. Whether you won or lost each and every one of you should be proud of your achievements.



Geography

Coláiste Bríde students from Transition Year and Fifth year protested as part of an international 'Climate Action' event on two separate Fridays in September and October in Enniscorthy town. They wanted to raise awareness around the need for people to adopt a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. Ten Sixth Year students were invited to attend a Climate Action workshop. The students from Coláiste Bríde gave their perspective on the changes we face and the action that they believe needs to happen. The students voiced their concerns and generated ideas about how they can make a difference in their school and in their



Social Awareness



Transition Years collected €2,800 for Down Syndrome Ireland.



Transition Years also collected €2,081 for St. Vincent de Paul.



Transition Years have also been raising money for Autism Ireland. Well done to each and every one of you for raising money for these extremely worthwhile charities.

Rotary Wexford Youth Leadership Development



Well done to all our students who were interviewed as part of the Rotary Youth Leadership Development Competition. Congratulations to Aibhfe Harrington who has qualified for the next round.

local community. This is a pilot project to make Enniscorthy a sustainable town and work is on-going in this project.



6th Year students also had their fieldtrip to Rosslare Strand as part of the Leaving Cert Geography Course. Seventy-five students spent the day carrying out investigations on coastal erosion and deposition. Students from Third Year travelled to Dunmore Caves and the Smithwicks Brewery in Kilkenny to study physical geography and to take a look at secondary economic activity.

History

One of the biggest highlights of the Leaving Cert History programme is the two-day trip to Belfast and Derry that is available to all Fifth and Sixth Year History students. Northern Ireland is a huge aspect of the Leaving Cert course and this trip provides students with a great understanding of Northern Ireland. During the trip students receive first-hand accounts from people who lived through the Troubles and visit all the different historical landmarks that they learn about in class.

Junior History students have been staying back after school for History Movie Nights with Miss Quinn.



Opening of Year & Mercy Day Mass

A beautiful Mass was held last month to celebrate the start of the new school year and to welcome our incoming First Years to our school community. In September our First Years planted some fruit trees which provided the theme for the mass and it will be great to watch the development of both the students and fruit years in the years ahead. We would like to thank Fr. Banville for guiding us through the spiritual journey during the past school year and we look forward to his involvement for the coming year. Huge thanks must also go to the Music Department for displaying their exceptional talent on the day and to the Religion Department for organising this wonderful mass.

Retreats



Over the past number of weeks many of our students have attended their annual spiritual retreats. At the very start of the year our

Halloween Bingo



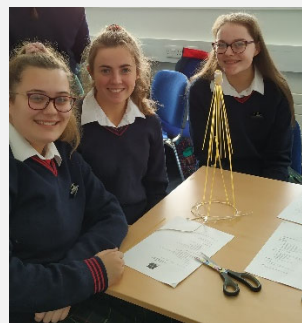
Our Halloween Disco Bingo fundraiser was a great success and raised over €1600 for the school. There were plenty of wonderful fancy-dress outfits from both students and teachers. We may have just found another fun annual whole school event for our calendar. Well done to all involved in this brilliant event.

Archery



Chloe O'Connor broke two Irish archery records in winning 1st place girls' compound category for which she also received the Jim Waters Trophy. She recently followed that up by becoming the new Irish 3D Compound Youth Champion. Chloe shoots a compound bow with Enniscorthy archery club and is clearly a very talented archer.

Student Council



Our new Student Council had their leadership training in the Co. Wexford Education Centre. We wish them the very best of luck in the year ahead.

Transition Years had their retreat with Mir Retreat. Our Sixth Years also attended their retreats in the Ballyvaloo Retreat Centre. In the next few weeks our First Years will have their retreats with a former Coláiste Bríde teacher, Sister Elizabeth Breen, of the Sisters of Mercy. During November our Third Years will also have their retreats.

Transition Year



The Transition Years of 2019/2020 have been very busy this year to date and have enjoyed a wide variety of activities and educational trips as well as completing projects and modules within their timetable. They are working incredibly hard and are knee deep in recyclable materials for their Junk Kouture creations while frantically juggling their Mini-Companies, producing goods and services for upcoming craft fairs during November and December. The following are some of the activities they have taken part in over the first term: TY Induction Day, Team teaching in St. Mary's and St. Aidan's every week, Bonding trip - Surf Shack, Curracloe, Retreat, Certified First Aid/Manual



Handling/Food Safety/Fire Safety Days, Junk Kouture Auditions, Sport Leadership, Digital Leaders, Downs Syndrome Fundraiser, Mini Company Talk - Local Enterprise Office, Financial

Literacy Talk, Junk Kouture, Mini-Company, Positive Mental Health Performance in Wexford Arts Centre, Prototype Presentation Day, DVD SPHE project talk, John Paul 11 Award Talk, Gaisce Talk, Climate Change Protest, Autism Talk and fundraiser, Maths Talk with University



Limerick Speaker, Self Defence Day, Shona Project - Waterford Institute Technology, WWETB talk - Careers in Apprenticeships, Halloween Make-up and decoration Competition, trip to Wexford Opera Festival, Hook Head lighthouse and Loftus Hall.

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Open Evening 2019



Our Open Evening took place which was a great success. And once again our students proved themselves to be wonderful ambassadors for our school. Although Open Evening is an important opportunity for sixth class pupils to visit the school, it is as equally important as an opportunity for our students to open the school's doors and show off all the wonderful things that they are doing here in Coláiste Bríde.

Maths Week



Congratulations to all the winners from our various Maths Week competitions.