



ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE KILKENNY

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RECORD 2026



First Year on their first day 2025/2026



Dermot Ryan

To work in education is to shape the minds of those who are growing and maturing, it is about building the foundations of our society so that the next generations are ready to step forward, in time, and one day lead. Nelson Mandela famously said of it that "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". Albert Einstein noted, "education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think", many years before him, Saint John Henry Newman said of education that it "gives a man a clear, conscious view of his own opinions and judgments, a truth in developing them, an eloquence in expressing them, and a force in urging them" - reminding us that true education goes beyond rote learning into the fostering of curiosity and independent thought. Malcolm X once noted, of the power of education, that it "is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today". Pope Francis spoke of it as "an act of love; it is like giving life"

Yet, beneath these powerful recognitions and aspirations lies, I think, a deeper truth. It is that those of us who work in education continually learn from those we teach - and what a sacred privilege it is for all of us at St Kieran's College to be taught by the students here, past and present, time and time again.

As I write this I marvel at the most recent achievement of our past pupil Peter Lynch who just ran a 2.06.08 marathon in London - smashing the Irish record; we remember that last year he ran a 45.59, again smashing the national 10 mile record which John Treacy ran in 1993 - a record that stood for 31 years... I marvel at the achievements of our Senior Hurlers who were all but beaten in the quarter-final, the semi-final, where we were 3 points down after 61.5 minutes played! and the All-Ireland final - but lost none of them because they trusted in each other and had the calm heads to make correct decisions, time and time again, in the most pressured

Message from the President

of circumstances. Their mastery, skill and dedication winning for us a 26th Colleges All-Ireland title. I marvel at the enthusiasm of our TYs who longed for a place to help on the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage; the mastery of the same group who portrayed such a powerful performance on the stage of the play "Across the Baracades" with the students from the Loreto Secondary School; the desire of others on so many occasions to undertake charitable activity - the tractor run, the shoe box appeal and so much more - the resilience of our Second Year Basketball team who at the time of writing, have qualified for an All-Ireland Final - beating bigger schools and players continually en route to that goal. We wish them well in the final! The achievements of our choirs, trad and jazz bands in Wesley - standing shoulder to shoulder with the very best in Ireland and being recognised for that talent. We cannot forget the achievement of Kyrell in the All-Ireland Cross Country with a stunning 4th place finish and our Maths team who continued the tradition of regional success in Maths and Applied Maths competitions.

We don't teach - we learn, and for that I am so grateful. Teachers, parents, those of us in management, those who serve as Trustees and Bishop Ger as Patron are immensely proud of the students here and of all the many insights they offer us. We delight to share in their success. We learn from them each day.

It has been a busy campus this past year. As I write this the full size (Croke Park dimensions) Astro Turf pitch is nearing completion. It will be an amazing asset for the students during the days and given to the Co Board in the evenings for training. The Modular build is now also nearly completed - a woodwork room and two special education classrooms all a wonderful addition to our campus.

The plans for the school build are now at stage 2b with the Department of Education and Youth and we 'patiently' await a green light to go to tender. Having facilitated other schools in the city with the gift of land - we hope now the department honours its commitment to our city.

This year, as these pages show we saw the retirement of Gerry Buckley - always a positive presence for staff and students. Gerry occupied the technology rooms - giving so much of his knowledge and passion for his subjects to all he taught. I am conscious too of the death of Kieron Kennedy as a former President of the College he was passionate about St Kieran's and worked tirelessly to serve it - may he rest in peace.

I work most closely with the school management - Adrian Finan, Principal and Ken Maher and Liam Smith, Deputy Principals. Their commitment to the students, the campus, the mission and

Catholic ethos of St Kieran's College is a joy to observe and I remain humbled by their relentless commitment to the people who populate these grounds. They, and their truly amazing colleagues on our school staff, ensure that all in our community can learn from each other "each day here", as our prayer to St Kieran reminds us, "in some new way".

The College remains very much at the heart of the faith community of the Diocese of Ossory. It is important to us to house here the Diocesan Forum, the Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator and the Diocesan Faith Development Group, the General Conferences of Priests and the annual Priests Reunion and so much more. The men who founded this College wanted it to serve the people and faith community of this place - and it certainly continues to do that today.

Bishop Ger Nash of Ferns has been appointed the Apostolic Administrator of our Diocese. In that role he serves as our School Patron - of this we are immensely proud being the Diocesan School. His interest in the College, its students and staff, its Catholic ethos and, as a Clare man, its hurling tradition is appreciated by us all. I thank him and the College Trustees for their unfailing support for all that we do here. A support made truly tangible in their encouragement of the development of the facilities here in so many ways.

Most importantly I want to thank the students. I say it often that we are so proud of you and all that you achieve. You truly do teach us each day and it is a joy to learn from you. Your support for each other, your commitment to chasing the best version of yourself - which God intends for you - is humbling and inspiring. May we continue to learn from you and your achievements.

I take this opportunity to wish our Leaving Certificate students the very best - we know well that you will do yourselves and all of us proud. Be confident. I am conscious that as a class that you have had a journey - the death of your friend and classmate Harry Byrne stays with us all - that you honoured his memory with a bench to recall him - a place of smiles and laughter is so fitting for Harry's memory and his mark on us all. My thanks to the Parents' Association for their support of this wonderful idea.

St Kieran's College is a special place and, as such, I have a deep debt of gratitude to all that make it so. To the students and their Council, the parents and their Association, the School and College staff, my colleagues on the Board of Management, the Trustees, Bishop Ger as our Patron, the Alumni Association and our past pupils and all those who make St Kieran's College - *hiems transiit*.

Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, President
Chairperson, Board of Management



Adrian Finan

With the close of another academic year, it is both appropriate and worthwhile to pause and reflect on the experiences, achievements and moments that have shaped life in St Kieran's over the past twelve months. Each year brings its own challenges and opportunities, and this year has been no different. What remains constant, however, is the strength of our school community. We are fortunate to have such committed students, supportive parents and dedicated staff, whose combined efforts ensure that St Kieran's College continues to thrive. The pages of this year's College Record offer a fitting insight into that shared endeavour.

At the heart of everything we do in St Kieran's lies our enduring ethos. As Ireland's oldest all-boys Catholic secondary school, we remain committed to the pursuit of real excellence in education and formation, in the light of the Gospel. Trusting that our Lord guides the work, our mission is to support each student in realising the fullness of his potential. This involves more than academic success alone; it encompasses the spiritual, physical and emotional development of each young man entrusted to our care. We encourage our students to strive for all that is possible, to recognise and develop their individual gifts, and in doing so, to experience the joy captured so well in our motto, *Hiems Transiit*.

The breadth and depth of student activity across the year has once again been exceptional. This publication reflects a school community alive with energy and engagement. Whether through academic pursuits, sporting achievements, artistic expression or involvement in service and leadership, our students have embraced opportunities with enthusiasm and commitment. It is particularly pleasing to see the strong sense of pride they have in their school, and the manner in which they represent St Kieran's both within and beyond the College.

Among the many highlights recorded in this year's edition is the story of our

Message from the Principal

26th Croke Cup success. This achievement, secured after a dramatic and hard-fought victory over Presentation College, Athenry in Croke Park on St Patrick's Day, will long be remembered. It stands as a testament to the resilience, skill and determination of the players, and to the dedication of those who guided and supported them. I extend sincere congratulations to all involved, and indeed to every student who has contributed to the life of the school across a wide range of activities this year.

I would like to acknowledge the continued support and encouragement we receive from so many who contribute to the life of the College. In particular, I wish to thank Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, President of St Kieran's College, for his steadfast commitment to our school community. Working in close partnership with the Trustees, Dermot has played a key role in advancing the significant campus developments, some of which are now nearing completion. The addition of a new all-weather playing field, in particular, represents a major enhancement to our facilities and will provide lasting benefit for our students in the years ahead.

The past year has also marked important progress in the development of our provision for students with additional needs. The delivery of two new Special Classes, including the sanctioning of a second autism class, is a very welcome development. These facilities, which will be in place for the coming school year, reflect our ongoing commitment to inclusivity and to ensuring that St Kieran's is a place where all students are supported in reaching their potential.

We express our gratitude to our former Patron, Bishop Niall Coll, for his support during his time in Ossory, and we wish him every blessing in his new appointment as Bishop of Raphoe. We also extend a warm welcome to our new Patron, Bishop Ger Nash, following his appointment as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Ossory and wish him every blessing in his ministry.

I would also like to express sincere appreciation to the Trustees, the Board of Management, the Parents' Association, and the Student Council for their continued support and dedication. The collective efforts of all these groups play a vital role in sustaining and enriching the life of the College.

A school is only as strong as the people who work within it, and I want to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of our teaching and support staff. Their professionalism, care and commitment to students are evident every day. Equally important is the generosity they show beyond the classroom—in coaching teams, supporting activities, organising events and giving of their time so willingly. This spirit of volunteerism is central to what makes St Kieran's such a special place.

I am also very fortunate to work alongside a dedicated leadership team. I extend my sincere thanks to our Deputy Principals,

Mr Ken Maher and Mr Liam Smith, for their constant support, sound judgement and commitment to the wellbeing of the entire school community.

This year, we said farewell to Mr Ger Buckley, who retired in February after 33 years of distinguished service. Ger made an outstanding contribution to the teaching of Technology and to school life more broadly. His influence on generations of students is significant, and he will be fondly remembered by colleagues and students alike. We thank him for his dedication and wish him every happiness in the years ahead.

We also remember Mgr Kieron Kennedy, former President of St Kieran's College, who passed away last summer. Mgr Kennedy's contribution to the life and development of the College over many years was immense, and his legacy remains part of the fabric of the school. We remember him with gratitude. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh ananam.*

I wish to acknowledge all those who contributed to the production of this year's College Record. In particular, I thank Ms Tina Lawlor and Mr Paul FitzGerald for the care, time and professionalism they bring to its compilation each year. This publication is a valuable record of school life and a celebration of student achievement. Annually, the Record encapsulates a year in the life of St Kieran's College - the triumphs and the challenges which make up the lives of the people who live, work and learn here on a daily basis. Documenting this, through articles, photos and stories is a massive task and for that we are grateful to all who make these pages so enjoyable to read.

As we approach the examination period, I extend my best wishes to our Third Year and Sixth Year students. Their commitment and effort throughout the year have been commendable, and I hope that they approach the weeks ahead with confidence.

In a special way, we acknowledge our Leaving Certificate students as they prepare to conclude their time in St Kieran's. This group has shown resilience and strength, not least in the face of the tragic loss of their classmate Harry Byrne in November 2021. As they now prepare to move on, we remember Harry and keep his family in our thoughts and prayers. I wish this year group every success in their examinations and every happiness in the future. I hope that they will always look back on their time here with pride and a strong sense of belonging.

As the school year draws to a close, I would like to thank all members of our community for their continued support and contribution. It is through our shared commitment that St Kieran's continues to grow and flourish.

I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable summer break and look forward to the year ahead.

With every good wish and blessing,
Mr Adrian Finan, Principal



St Kieran's College Staff 2025-2026

Back Row l-r: Mr Enda Malone, Ms Evelyn Allan, Mr Michael Connolly, Mr Brian Dowling, Mr Richie Windle, Ms Trish McElwee, Mr Larry Cotter, Ms Jennie Brennan, Ms Ann Meaney, Row 7 l-r: Mr Jason Dermody, Mr David McCormack, Mr Gerry Walsh, Mr Paul Fitzgerald, Mr Fergal Brennan, Mr Richie Ruth, Row 6 l-r: Mr Shane Byrne, Mr Lester Ryan, Mr Michael Carey, Mr Peter O'Sullivan, Mr Eoghan Pollard, Mr Ben Tomkins, Ms Aofie McQuaid, Mr Tom Brennan, Row 5 l-r: Mr Stephen Morgan, Mr David Hennessy, Mr Jonjo Farrell, Mr Michael Walsh, Ms Pauline Bergin, Ms Jacqui Norton, Ms Paula Bibby, Ms Chloe Corcoran, Row 4 l-r: Mr Brian Maher, Mr Eoin Glendon, Mr Carl Lynch, Ms Emma McDonnell, Ms Aisling Walsh, Ms Ciara Staunton, Mr Simon Reddy, Mr Ken Archbold, Row 3 l-r: Ms Gemma Cullen, Mr Shane Walsh, Mr Conor Delaney, Mr Evan Walsh, Ms Maria Loughlin, Ms Eadaoin Maher, Ms Jennifer Dunne, Mr Martin Walsh, Mr Edward O'Gorman, Row 2 l-r: Ms Susan Moran, Ms Tina Lawlor, Ms Michaela Donoghue, Ms Hollie Hickey, Mr Ronan Dowling, Ms Zareena Haughney, Mr Eddie Brennan, Front Row l-r: Mr Joe Kavanagh, Mr Liam Smith, Mr Adrian Finan, Rev. Dr Dermot Ryan, Mr Ken Maher, Mr Ger Buckley, Mr Patrick Darmody, Ms Grace Farrell, Mr Eamonn Heffernan, Mr Ollie Kelly, Mr Ronan Lynch, Ms Loretta Mannion, Ms Michaela O'Connell, Mr Martin O'Neill.

Board of Management 2025-2026

Our schools have boards of management to, as the name suggests, manage the school. The Board of Management in St Kieran's College does this on behalf of the Patron Bishop Ger Nash, the Apostolic Administrator of Ossory. The

Board is expected to uphold the ethos of the school, which for the

College is a Catholic School ethos embodied in the mission statement of our school.

We are fortunate in St Kieran's College to have an excellent Board of Management and we are grateful to them for the tireless work in helping to create the community that is St Kieran's College.

Our Board is comprised of Rev Dr Dermot Ryan, Chairperson, Mr Adrian Finan Principal of the School and Secretary to the Board of Management, Mr Michael Hogan, Ms Yvonne O'Dwyer, Mr Kevin Cummins, Ms Una Dillon, Mr Michael Walsh, Ms Hollie Hickey and Mr Tom Hogan.

Trustees of St Kieran's College

As a Diocesan School the College has a group of Trustees who direct and guide the control of the entire campus and the College itself.

They are chaired by Bishop Ger Nash, the Apostolic Administrator of Ossory and, under his direction, they endeavour to guide and support the work of the College President

who carries out the decisions of the Trustees on a day to day basis. The College Trustees have a long history of providing immense support to the College in its educational endeavours - with our Diocesan Secondary School and the many other Diocesan educational and pastoral activities which take place at St Kieran's College.

We are very grateful to the Trustees who give so much of their time and talents to the College ensuring its future is as bright as its past - the Trustees are Bishop Ger Nash Chair, Ms Sinead Fitzmaurice, Mr Cathal Fitzgerald, Mgr Michael Ryan, Mgr Dan Carroll, Ms Claire McInerney Brown, Mr Pat O'Neill and Mr John Curtis.

The Parents' Association

As another busy school year draws to a close, we extend our thanks to the Parents' Association for their continued dedication and support of the St Kieran's College community. The Parents' Association plays an invaluable role in strengthening the partnership between home and school, fostering a spirit of cooperation that benefits every student. Throughout the year,

the Association has supported a wide range of school activities and initiatives—helping to enhance student life, assist in fundraising efforts, and provide support through their help with developing school policies. Their commitment ensures that the values of community, care and collaboration remain at the heart of St Kieran's. A special word of thanks goes

to the Parents' Association Executive, Chairperson Danielle Coonan, Secretary Ailish Tallis, and Treasurer Catherine O'Hara for their leadership, time, and energy in coordinating the Association's work so effectively. We are very grateful to all parents and their association for their ongoing commitment and support to our school.

Student Council



Back Row l to r: Kieran Timmins, David Barcoe, Hugh Whelan, Liam O'Dwyer, Sean Nulty. Middle row: Jacob Joseman George Thekkekara, James Murphy, Nevin Benny, Tommy Doyle, Bobby Aylward. Front row: Imad Rahman Miah, Padhraig Ryan, Oscar Doyle, MJ Burke, Glenn Ryan. Missing from photo: Conor Heffernan, Shane Comerford, Sam McAviney

St Kieran's College Priests' Reunion 2025



This year the College Reunion fell on the Tuesday 19th August - holding with the tradition of the first Tuesday after the 15th August. With formation in the seminary now suspended some 32 years, as is the logical consequence of that, and a decline in vocations, numbers, for this annual event, have been falling somewhat in recent years. That said, it was great to welcome back so many to the College once again this year. Of those who come many do so faithfully each year and include it as part of their summer programme or travels home, whereas others join on the occasion of their jubilee of that of some old friend. While numbers may be smaller in recent years the joy, communion, laughter and the experience of telling old tales has not lessened one bit. Familiar faces brought broad smiles as the men Ordained from the College returned. The informality of the gathering as the evening begun ended itself to this warm welcome.

Once all had gathered, as is traditional, the celebration of Eucharist formed the centre piece of the evening - during which the homily focused on the search for faith in our world today. The lives of ministry of those gathered, dedicated to Word, Sacrament and Service, have, it was noted, no matter what our failings, mediated God's grace, and in so doing, encouraged

a sense of transcendence, keeping hope alive in our various parishes and ministries. An apt insight in this Jubilee Year of Hope.

Reflecting on the celebration of the Eucharist, a celebration of which has been at the heart of the spiritual journey and ministry of all gathered. We recalled that while in the marketplace, bread and wine are commodities, bought and sold; on the altar, through the power of the Holy Spirit, they become the very Body and Blood of Christ, nourishment for the journey of life and the food of eternal life for our communities.

The evening as always was filled with stories, memories of old friends, laughter and the opportunity to break-

bread together in a most relaxed setting in the Lannigan Room. Those who had returned to the Lord in the previous year were remembered in prayer, and those who, for reasons of various commitments, or circumstances, could not travel were fondly spoken about as part of these many stories.

Those gathered reflected on a lifetime of joy in ministry, a sense of fulfilment from the path followed and a prayer that men today would also hear this wonderful invite of the Lord to service in the priesthood.

We stayed chatting into the evening, but then that is what old friends do.



Hiems Transit.

Retirements

MR GER BUCKLEY

By Joe Kavanagh

This year saw the retirement of Mr Ger Buckley who began his teaching career in St Kieran's College in 1993. Ger was always a very popular teacher with both staff and students alike forging many friendships throughout his many years of service in St Kieran's College. Ger was a brilliant Technology teacher with a unique style and a passion for learning. His caring and friendly approach to his profession and his relationships with all will be the hallmark of his time here in St Kieran's. He will be greatly missed around the school by all and especially by his close friend, Mr Joe Kavanagh who wrote the following dedication for Ger on his retirement:

After 30 remarkable years of service, we celebrate Gerry, who began his journey in our school in 1993 and leaves behind a legacy that will not be forgotten. As a Technology teacher, he brought far more than technical knowledge into the classroom—he brought laughter, energy, and a sense of ease that made every lesson enjoyable. Gerry was known for his quick wit and humour, turning even the most challenging topics into something approachable and fun.

His independent spirit shaped a teaching style that was uniquely his own, yet always effective. Beneath the laughter and relaxed atmosphere, there was a deep commitment to ensuring students learned, progressed, and achieved their best. He struck that rare balance between fun and focus.

Gerry's impact reaches far beyond the classroom. He has inspired generations of students and colleagues alike. As he retires, we thank him sincerely and wish him every happiness in the years ahead.

We wish Ger a long healthy and happy retirement and give thanks for his many years of service to many of his students over the years from Kilkenny and beyond.

Congratulations Ger and we wish you well.



Retirement Night



Fr Dermot Ryan and Mr Adrian Finan making a presentation to Mr Ger Buckley on his retirement.



Fr Dermot Ryan and Mr Adrian Finan making a presentation to Ms Sharon Keyes on her retirement.



Fr Dermot Ryan and Mr Adrian Finan making a presentation to Ms Jo Staunton on her retirement.

SNA Appreciation Day



Huge thanks to our Student Council who presented some cakes to our SNAs on September 25th, 2025 as part of SNA Appreciation Day, a fitting acknowledgment of all the wonderful work they do in our school community every day.

World Teachers' Day

Huge thank you to Mr L. Ryan for organising treats for our staff on October 8th, 2025 in celebration of World Teachers' Day. It's essential to recognise the invaluable contributions of teachers, both inside the classroom and beyond, as they inspire, educate, and shape the future with dedication and passion.



Monsignor Kieron J. Kennedy

Monsignor Kieron J. Kennedy, former President of St Kieran's College and the then serving Parish Priest of Freshford, Co. Kilkenny and Episcopal Vicar for Social and Family Affairs, died unexpectedly, but peacefully at his residence on Tuesday, 10th June 2025, in his seventy-fifth year.

Born in Dublin where his father was a serving member of An Garda Síochána and where Daniel J. Kennedy had met and married Mildred Rochford who was to be his wife for almost 60 years. Kieron's early life was characterised by several family moves with each promotion through the ranks to Superintendent which would have been the norm for many members of the Gardaí at that time.

It was when his father was posted as a Detective Sergeant to Callan, Co. Kilkenny, that the then teenage Kieron started to attend St Kieran's College Secondary School, Kilkenny, and when an ongoing association with St Kieran's College commenced, although there was only a brief salvo with hurling. That posting in Callan and attendance at St Kieran's meant that Kieron's calling to the priesthood saw him commence his studies as a seminarian for the Diocese of Ossory, which Bishop Peter Birch determined should be at the Pontificio Collegio Irlandese, the Irish College in Rome.

Following his ordination in St Mary's Cathedral in Kilkenny on 30th June 1974, Kieron was appointed by the Episcopal Conference as Irish Director for the Holy Year 1975 celebrations in Rome, which in that year had Reconciliation and Renewal as the theme, an early recognition of the organisational and administrative skills that were evident throughout his ministry. Post-graduate studies followed at the Gregorian Pontifical University, again in Rome, before Kieron returned to Ossory, appointed curate in St Canice's parish in Kilkenny City.

In 1978 Kieron was commissioned to work with the Archdiocese of Westminster and the following five years saw him live and minister in London. Appointed Diocesan Housing and Resource Officer, he worked with and ministered to a wide array of



state and diocesan groups, including the London Voluntary Housing Association, the Irish Episcopal Commission for Emigrants, the Irish Chaplaincy Scheme and the Catholic Housing Aid Society.

Recognising his gifts and talents, Bishop Laurence Forristal called him back to the Diocese of Ossory with a particular remit to work with Ossory Social Services, an organisation established by Bishop Peter Birch and with which Kieron would be associated throughout his ministry. In the following years, while serving as Director of Ossory Social Services, Kieron was appointed Episcopal Vicar for Social and Family Affairs, Diocesan Director for Emigrant Services, and Director of SOS (Kilkenny Ltd.), while continuing his pastoral work.

His association with St Kieran's College was renewed in 1989 when he was appointed Administrator, and subsequently in 2004, when appointed President of the College. In these roles, he worked to improve the facilities of the College, both the Seminary and the Secondary School, to upgrade the fabric of the buildings, to enhance the profile and to expand the use of the College as a diocesan and educational facility. He was instrumental, for instance, in the establishment of the NUI Maynooth Outreach programme at St Kieran's which ran for many years. He served as Trustee of the College and as Chairperson of the Secondary School Board of Management, supporting management and staff in the running of the school and took immense pride in seeing the St Kieran's College community flourish.

While continuing his work with Ossory Social Services, in 2011, Kieron

was appointed Administrator of St Mary's Cathedral. He very much enjoyed engaging with the parishioners of St Mary's and was integral to the life of the parish and to the conservation and restoration work carried out in the Cathedral and Chapter House, initiated by Bishop Séamus Freeman, SAC, which is still ongoing. Kieron was involved in the establishment of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, the Cathedral Book Shop and the Cathedral Café, which brought new life to the Cathedral parish. In 2018, Kieron was appointed Parish Priest of Freshford, again while continuing his many other ministries. He very much valued and respected deeply the welcome and the personal support he received from both its Church communities of Tulla and Freshford where he enjoyed serving and attending to the needs of his parishioners until his unexpected passing.

His work was characterised by an attention to detail and an insistence on high standards and structure, especially as it related to support for the marginalised, which he saw as intrinsic to the mission of the Church, and his fifty-one years of ministry bore testimony to the motto of Ossory Social Services, 'Helping people to help themselves'. It was fitting that at Kieron's Requiem Mass Most Rev. Niall Coll, Bishop of Ossory, priests, religious and people of the diocese, were joined by lifelong friends, Most Rev. William Crean, Bishop of Cloyne, who journeyed with Kieron since their student days in Rome, Most Rev. Jim Curry, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster and Rt. Rev. Monsignor Martin Hayes, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Westminster, who were his friends and colleagues from his time in the Archdiocese, and by Sr. Therese Gillis, Sister of Charity, his friend and co-worker from his early days at Ossory Social Services.

Kieron will be inconsolably missed by his family; Miriam, Dorothy and Tim, Donal and Shelley, and by his nieces and nephews Sarah, Daniel, Donal jnr, Leah, and David and his loyal extended family, Fran, Madeline, and Kay. May he rest in peace with the parents he loved and cared for deeply.

Campus Changes



U14 Fenians v Galmoy/Windgap, last match on Fr Tommy Maher Field 5th July 2025.



We are in the midst of a period great change and development here at the College - we are currently at stage 2b of a new school build and a total refurbishment of the existing buildings. A project of some nearly 40million. In time the Vocational School will be levelled as they relocate to the Western Environs to a new site on the lands that the Trustees of the College gifted to facilitate their expansion and that of Colaiste Pobail Osraí.

It is an exciting time for education here - albeit one for which we have had to be patient and have to remain so.

As all this is happening we have also been working on more significant developments on the campus - with the assistance of the Department of Education and Youth we have installed, in this past year, two Special Education Units and a specialist Woodwork room via a significant modular build at the back of Burrells Hall. These wonderful new facilities are a welcome addition to our impressive facilities but they are just a preliminary of what is to come as we continue to improve and develop the school footprint on our campus.

Separate to this we have been developing two full size GAA pitches in the grounds - the Fr Tommy Maher Senior pitch which was already Croke Park dimensions as a full size grass pitch will shortly be completed as an Astro-Pitch of those same dimensions. Imagine Croke Park in Astro here in the heart of the City - it will be a wonderful asset to our College community, the students here each day, and to Kilkenny GAA in our partnership with them each evening. These facilities are the result of significant fundraising in recent years and as part of that a very significant donation of €100,000 in the memory of a past pupil - a gift from his family.





Separately we are developing a full size GAA grass pitch on what was Birchfield. This project involved a massive dig to level the field, a purchase of lands adjacent to us to allow us get a full size pitch on this location, and a draining and re-seeding of that entire area.

In the months ahead this will be a truly spectacular playing area for the College and many more. Finally, the Leaving Certificate Class of 2026 have installed at this location a bench recalling their friend and classmate Harry Byrne who died here in an accident in 2021. A wonderful place and way to remember his smiling and fun loving nature.



Ossory Adult Faith Development

Many aspects of the life of the Diocese are housed in St Kieran's College. The Diocesan Forum, in the person and work of Sr Helen Maher; the Coordinator of the Pastoral Plan, in the person of Ms Gemma Mulligan - and through them both they link with the Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Council and so much more. One other aspect of the life of the Diocese that finds its home here is the Adult Faith Development Group - or more particularly the work of this group throughout the year. It is entirely appropriate as the men who first founded St Kieran's College wanted to offer here a place of formation and education - and with the school, and the Diocesan life of the College, that certainly remains at the heart of the mission of this place today. The Faith Development Group

continually attempts to innovate in various ways and to help all in our parishes and Diocese to deepen their understanding of their faith - a gift first received in Baptism but lived throughout our lives in our parishes and various contexts.

In this past year the group were asked by the City Parishes Pastoral Area to help prepare a Baptismal Team that will serve the families of the City parishes as they prepare for baptisms. Over a course of four gatherings those who came from those City parishes were led in reflection by our own Fr Liam Bergin, now lecturing Theology in Boston College, Fr Enda Murphy who works at the Congregation of Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments in Rome, Ms Gemma Mulligan the Coordinator of the

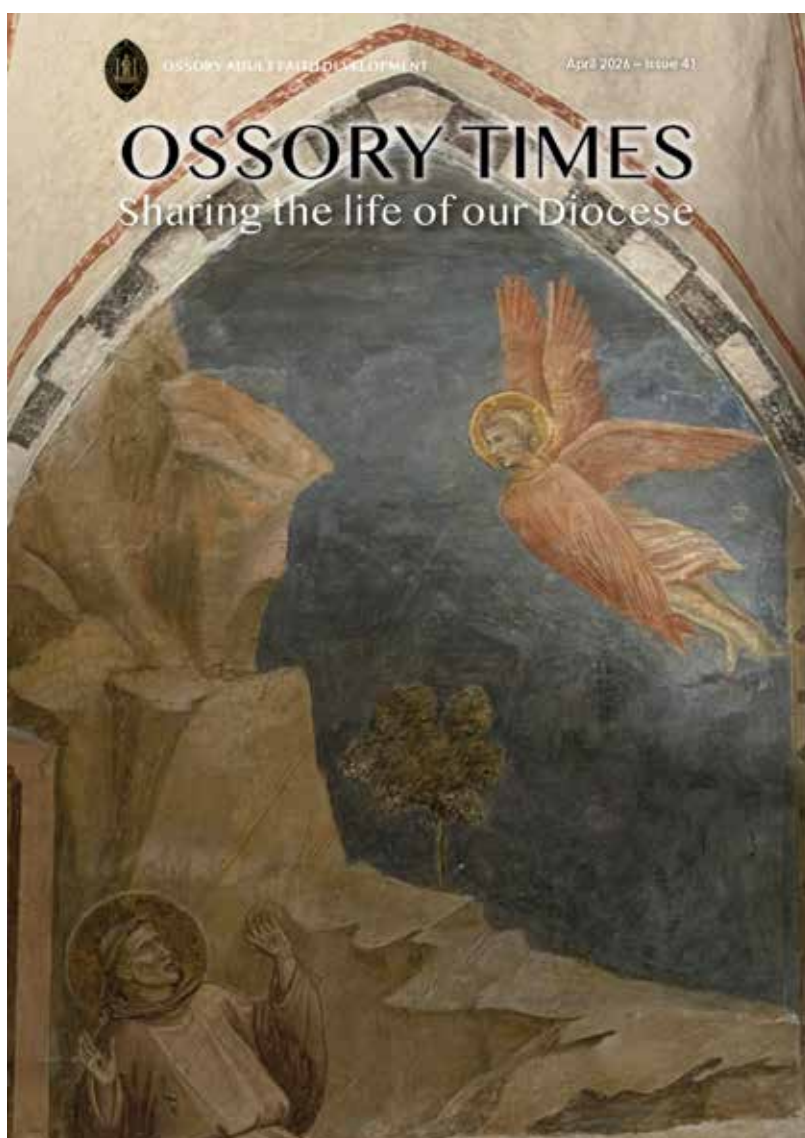
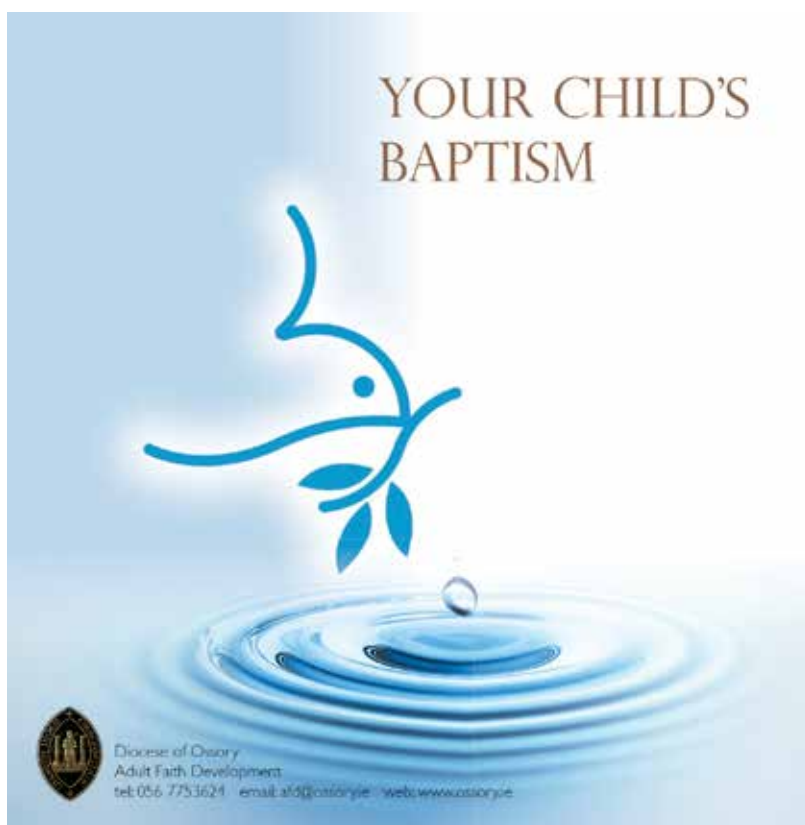


Diocesan Pastoral Plan, and Fr Dermot Ryan who leads the Faith Development Group. These gatherings, in a conversational style, invited those attending to reflect on: the Sacraments in general; those of initiation in particular; and a theology of our being called to serve by virtue of our own Baptism - the rights and duties this Sacrament gives and demands. Participants asked questions, reflected together, probed and hopefully, in so doing, learned much about their new ministry. A ministry which is so fundamental to our lives of faith - namely, our understanding of Baptism.

Continuing the work of supporting the Jubilee of Hope invited by Pope Francis, the Faith Development Group once again invited speakers to reflect on various aspects of Hope, as it is found in the Christian message. In all, throughout this Jubilee Year, some eight or nine evenings brought people of the Diocese together to reflect on the meaning of hope in the world today - and importantly where it is that we can find it!

One of the highlights of the work of the AFD group this past year was undoubtedly the Pilgrimage to northern Italy. On which fifty pilgrims travelled following the title "Art and Architecture - A pilgrimage exploring God's Gifts". This trip was intended to help those who journeyed together to ask questions of their faith by means of encountering some of the great art, history and architecture of that region. A place that is truly steeped in the works of many of the masters. Based in Abano Terme, we were led by our guide Kieran Troy, a native of Ossory, who reminded us from the outset that a love of hurling is not born from a rendition of the rules but rather from watching the game be played before us, and it was in that spirit that we travelled to stand before the marvels of that region - to be reminded of the beauty of our faith.

The Abbey at Praglia, located within the Euganean Hills, where we reflected on the Rule of Saint Benedict of Nursia; Padua where we explored the "Chapel of the Chapter" where we marvelled at the wonderful works of Giotto which adorned the walls; the Scrovegni Chapel where we were brought face to face with literally wall to wall frescos by the same Giotto and to witness there one of the great turning points in Western art - the move toward naturalism and emotional depth; Venice in all its wonders, and the crypt chapel of the Basilica of San Marco and the relics of Saint Mark the Evangelist, brought to this place in 829; Bologna where we passed the tomb of Saint Dominic at the Basilica of San Domenico before moving to the church of Santo Stefano, often called the "Seven Churches"; - given its many internal configurations and wonderful pieces of art; the Sanctuary of Monte Berico to see there the famous painting





Declan Hurley



Sean Farrell



Tobias Winright

depicting Christ as a beggar at the table of Pope Gregory I; Vicenza where we came face to face with wonderful architecture, namely the works of Andrea Palladio. Prayer, reflection, art and architecture, these were easy days in the company of friends - an opportunity for those who travelled to take time apart and to reflect in a deeper manner on the wonders we saw, the Gospels that inspired them, and the insights that these artists and places can offer us about our God.

During Advent and Lent the College served as the location for many reflections - most recently when we explored the work of Trócaire with its CEO Sean Farrell; the work of the Synod in Ireland with Fr Declan Hurley, Chairperson of the Irish Synodal Pathway Team; and the morality of policing with arms - fear or enforcement with Prof Tobias Winright, Professor of Moral Theology at St Patrick's College, Maynooth. These evening - each drawing different groupings of people - reflected the broad interests of the people of our Diocese in exploring their faith. These Lenten gatherings were wonderfully supported by Bishop Ger by his attendance and participation - as Apostolic Administrator his energy for all things Ossory extending into these gatherings too.

The Faith Development Group continues here its works with the digital platform ASPAL, the faith formation APP and its collaboration with St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth who, thanks to this creation, are able to engage with the moral formation and professional development for all who work in the Bons Secours hospitals here in Ireland and far beyond.

The MyFaith programme of preparation for the Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation is still being well received by some of

the parishes in Ossory and many far beyond. The various elements of this programme, updated again this year, to reflect the new liturgical cycle.

The Group has also worked to support Synodality by means of evenings of reflection, opportunities for conversations in the Spirit, providing support for the National Gathering that took place in Kilkenny in October of this year.

Finally, the *Ossory Times*, now in its 14th year, still emerges from the College and is distributed to all the parishes of the Diocese sharing news of how our faith is lived locally and articles on depending our knowledge of that same faith. Its colour and variety hopefully indicative of the great energy for the faith in this region.

The work of faith development is continual - none of us know God fully - at least none of us here now.

A key aspect of the work of the Faith Development Group is to try and find occasions to bring people together to speak about our faith, to hear others do the same and, on occasion, simply to celebrate.

We hope that the College and the Adult Faith Development Group will continue to lead in ensuring that we stay deepening that faith here in Ossory into the future. My thanks to all involved in this work, those who worked with me to ensure that this happens - Fr Kieran O'Shea, Mr Michael Hogan, Ms Eadaoin Maher, Mr Declan Murphy, Ms Tina Lawlor and Ms Olivia Maher.



The Ossory Diocesan Pastoral Coordinator



Gemma Mulligan

As I write this piece for the college record, another academic year is drawing to a close. Each year, a few weeks before the summer break, students gather on the steps at the front of the college for their class photographs. It is hard to believe that a whole year has passed since they last stood there together. Much can happen in a year.

In the Diocese of Ossory, this past year has brought many changes and developments. In January 2026, the Bishop of Ossory was installed as Bishop of Raphoe, and Bishop Ger Nash of the Diocese of Ferns was appointed Apostolic Administrator of Ossory.

During the year, the Diocese launched the Ministry of Catechist/Lay Pastoral Leaders Programme. In December 2025,

an invitation was extended to lay people throughout the diocese to consider this ministry. Approximately forty people expressed an interest. We are now nearing the end of the discernment phase, with 28 candidates continuing in the programme. Two sessions remain, along with a weekend retreat to allow for deeper reflection and discernment.

From the earliest days of Christianity, the faith has been passed on by ordinary people sharing the message of Jesus within their families, schools, parishes and communities. Passing on the faith is not only the role of priests and bishops, but the responsibility of all baptised members of the Church.

Catechists are people who help others to learn about and grow in their faith. They teach not only through words, but also through the example of how they live. Catechists support children, young people and adults in understanding the Gospel, preparing for the sacraments and growing closer to God. All the baptised are called to serve and this programme of formation will allow faithful people to live out their baptismal calling in various ways. Our parishes and Pastoral Areas are full of faithful, dedicated people serving in many different ways. So much of what happens in

our church happens due to the generosity of people, living out their faith in various ways. Those who participate in this formal programme will work alongside all who serve in our parishes and Pastoral Areas.

The Pope John Paul II Award in Ossory has continued to grow since it was relaunched three years ago. Each year, students from St. Kieran's College take part in the Award programme. Alongside their weekly parish and community service, students also participate in a variety of diocesan events throughout the year.

During Holy Week, students involved in the Pope John Paul II Award were well represented at the Chrism Mass in the Diocese of Ossory. It was encouraging to see students from across the diocese, including many from St. Kieran's College, taking such an active role in the life of the Church.

Pope Leo XIV, in his message for the 40th World Youth Day, reminds us that "the fulfilment of our authentic desires always comes through going beyond ourselves." Like all those who come forward for ministry, these young people live out this message through their service in their school community, their parishes and in the diocese.

The Ossory Diocesan Forum



Helen Maher

"Every new step in the life of the Church is a return to the source".

(Universal Synod, Final Document)

The *new step* we have been hearing a lot about since 2021 is SYNODALITY. In March of that year Pope Francis placed a renewed emphasis on synodality by convoking a Synod on Synodality dedicated to the theme of synodality itself. In the same month, the Irish Bishops announced a new Synodal Pathway for the Catholic Church in Ireland. Pope Francis insisted that the 'path of synodality is the path that God expects from the Church in the third millennium'. Sharing this view, Pope Leo has said that synodality is not merely a procedural mechanism but a way of being Church, promoting authentic participation and communion among all members of the faithful.

The Second Vatican Council defined the Church as the "People of God," emphasizing a shared identity among all the members of the Church, rooted in baptism. This model highlights the fundamental equality of all believers—laity and clergy—and promotes active participation in the Church's mission by all. This vision of Church is based on the belief that the Holy Spirit speaks through all the baptised.

Reflecting on the work of the Diocesan Forum over the past year, it is heartening to see how well our diocesan pastoral structures align with the thinking on synodality expressed in the Final Document of the Universal Synod. The Diocesan Forum, from the beginning, has promoted a synodal understanding of Church, even though the *word* synodal was not being used when the Forum was established in 2004. Because of that focus, it has been diocesan policy over the years to encourage the existence of Pastoral Councils at parish, deanery, pastoral area and diocesan levels.

Key to the Forum vision has been the requirement to constantly review and adapt pastoral structures in light of changing circumstances. One example of this in recent years has been the grouping of neighbouring parishes into thirteen Pastoral Areas. The intention is that the parishes, focussed on mission, can work more effectively by identifying what can be done better by a

group of parishes working together than by an individual parish. This collaboration can involve sharing vital resources such as priests, lay leaders, staff and facilities across parish boundaries. An important aspect of the role of the Ossory Diocesan Council as described in the Forum Constitution is "To model synodality, collaboration and co-responsibility for the life of the diocese between Bishop, priests, and laity".

Much of the work of the ODPC over the past year has been engaging with Pastoral Councils and Pastoral Areas, offering support, training and encouragement. These groups are vital in developing a synodal understanding of how we are church together in the diocese. Synodality, this "new step" in the life of the Church, as Pope Leo has said, is not a mechanism but a way of being Church. Learning to live like this, in the first place, calls for conversion, a realisation that if this is what God is asking of the Church at this time, God will provide the means. "Conversations in the Spirit", a prayerful, guided method of dialogue that invites the Holy Spirit to lead participants in listening, sharing and discerning together is seen to be central to life at parish and every level of church life. Learning this way of prayerfully sharing and living is being offered to us through the Synodal Process. Gently and patiently encouraging each other to grow in this emerging way of being Church seems to be the invitation for the Forum at this time.

End of Year Awards 2025

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

FIRST YEAR

Student of the Year - Paddy Raftice

Certs of Merit - Conor Morrissey, Mark Phelan, Harry Brennan, Imad Rahman Miah, David Thomas Carroll, Hugh Lacey.

Academic of the Year - Sam Woodcock

SECOND YEAR

Student of the Year - Eoin Philpott

Certs of Merit - Gearoid Farrell, Sam Norton, Yevhen Zavarzin, James Travers, Henry Phelan, Ronan Griffin.

Academic of the Year - Paddy McCarthy

THIRD YEAR

Student of the Year - Jack Bolger

Certs of Merit - AJ Mackey, John Keher, Ted Healy, Joe Nolan, Sam Kealy, David Waldron

Academic of the Year - Lorcan Cummins

FOURTH YEAR

Student of the Year - Ruairi Hanrahan

Certs of Merit - Sean Nulty, Tommy Doyle, Alyn Hearne, Matthew Duggan, Ryan Minogue Lee, Fionn Blanchfield

FIFTH YEAR

Student of the Year - David Barcoe

Certs of Merit - Kieran Timmins, David Travers, Conor Heffernan, Larry Phelan, Bill McDermott, Eoin Walpole

Academic of the Year - Conor Aylward

SIXTH YEAR

Student of the Year - Oisín Marry

Certs of Merit - Chris Delaney, Liam Doyle, Chris Ging, Pierce Costello, Daniel Devereux, Bill O'Shea.

Academic of the Year - Sean Moloney

SENIOR SUBJECT AWARDS

Mathematics - Daniel Devereux

Gaeilge (Corn na Gaeilge) - Louis Fitzgerald

English - Charlie Grace

Business - Jamie Tallon

Technology - Philip O Mahoney

Construction Studies - Eoin Dalton

DCG - Vova Virko

History - Chris Ging

Geography - Odhran O'Keeffe

Spanish - Darragh Doyle

French - Odhran Moore

Physics - Cian Phelan

Chemistry - Chris Delaney

Biology - James Brennan

Ag Science - David Langton

Home Ec - Odhran Moore

Art - Quinn O'Neill

Music - Tom Walsh

P.E. - Ruairi Murphy

Computer Science - Jude Delaney

JUNIOR SUBJECT AWARDS

Mathematics - AJ Mackey

Gaeilge - Lorcan Cummins

English - Oran Aylward

Religion - Jack McShane

Business - AJ Mackey

Technology - Donnachadh Grant

Tech Graphics - John Keher

Wordwork - Conor Carroll

History - Lorcan Cummins

Geography - Conor Griffin

Spanish - Tommy Duggan

French - Harry Simpson

Science - Joe Nolan

Art - Billy Langton

Music - Lorcan Cummins

SPORTS AWARDS

Senior Hurler of the Year – Ed Lauhoff

Senior Soccer Player of the Year – Darragh Doyle

The White Medal – James Brennan
Sport Star of the Year – Ruairi McEvoy

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Brían Wilson

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Odhran Moore



Rev. Dr Michael Shortall

past pupil, now the President of St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth, received our Past Pupil Award and was Guest of Honour for our Awards Night.



Academic of the Year Recipients 2025

(l to r): Sam Woodcock (First Year), Paddy McCarthy (Second Year), Sean Moloney (Sixth Year), Conor Aylward (Fifth Year), Lorcan Cummins (Third Year).



Louis Fitzgerald, Corn na Gaeilge Recipient 2025.



Oisín Marry (Sixth Year STOTY 2025) and Sean Moloney (Sixth AOTY 2025) along with special guest Rev. Dr Michael Shortall.



President's Award Recipient 2025 - Odhrán Moore.



Major Award Recipients 2025

l to r: Odhrán Moore (Presidents Award), Ed Lauhoff (Senior hurler of the Year), Louis Fitzgerald (Corn na Gaeilge), Oisín Marry (Student of The Year), Sean Moloney (Academic of the Year), Ruairi McEvoy (Sportstar of the Year), James Brennan (White Medal).



Student of the Year Recipients 2025

(l to r): Paddy Raftice (First Year), Eoin Philpott (Second Year), Oisín Marry (Sixth Year), David Barcoe (Fifth Year), Ruairi Hanrahan (Fourth Year), Jack Bolger (Third Year).

Outstanding Academic Scholarships



JP McManus All-Ireland Scholarship Award: Congratulations to Volodymyr Virko from the LC Class of 2025 who was one of 126 students selected from the 32 counties of Ireland to receive the All-Ireland Scholarship Award from JP McManus at a wonderful ceremony in the University of Limerick in April.



Naughton Scholarship Awards 2025: Very proud of our students, Ruairi Phelan and Sean Moloney from the Leaving Cert Class of 2025 who received the Naughton Foundation Award. The Naughton Scholarship is an award for Irish Leaving Certificate students who have excelled in the area of STEM (Science, Engineering, Technology & Maths) and who plan to study a STEM subject at a third-level institution in Ireland. A total of 36 scholarships are awarded each year to students from across the Republic of Ireland and we are delighted for the lads to have received two of these awards. Phenomenal achievements - congratulations to you both. We wish both of you continued success as you further your studies.



Ad Astra Award Scholarship: Congratulations to James Brennan from the LC Class of 2025 who received the prestigious UCD Ad Astra Award at a special ceremony earlier this year, he was joined by his parents, Sinead & Tom and TY Co-Ordinator, Ms Hickey. This scholarship award recognises exceptional undergraduate students in academia, performing arts, and elite sports. James received his award for his exceptional talent in equestrian sports. Last year, James was awarded the White Medal at our Annual End of Year Awards Ceremony. We wish him continued success with his studies in Engineering.

UCD Entrance Scholarship Awards:

Congratulations to Ruairi Phelan who received an Entrance Scholarship Award from UCD. Ruairi was recognised for receiving maximum points in his Leaving Certificate Exams last summer. He is now studying Engineering in UCD.



Trinity College Entrance Exhibition Awards: Congrats to Sean Moloney who received an Entrance Exhibition Award from Trinity College recognising his fantastic Leaving Certificate results. Sean is studying Management Science and Information Systems Studies (MSISS) having received maximum points.

Debating Team Success 2026

This year has been another successful one for the St Kieran's College debating team, as they showcased their skill, intellect, research and critical thinking skills throughout the year. The team showed great grit and determination to progress once again to the knockout stages of the prestigious Concern Debate Competition. The team for the 2025-2026 debates consisted of Conor Alyward, Will O'Dwyer, Liam O'Dwyer, Larry Phelan, Tommy Doyle, and Hugh Kelly.

Competing in a fiercely contested league, the St Kieran's Team emerged victorious in two of the first three phases of the league. Throughout the league, our debaters tackled some of the most pressing global issues. In the first debate the team argued that 'Disinformation is the biggest threat to peace in 2025' against Cork Educate Together Secondary School. In the second round of the league the team convincingly opposed the motion that 'Boycotting is the most effective way to end fast fashion' with a 4-2 win over Loreto Secondary School, Clonmel. In the third and final round of the league the students from St Kieran's successfully proposed the motion that 'Global commitments to ending world hunger are a load of hot air' with a 6-1 unanimous win over Colaiste Choilm Ballincollig. Their impressive performance and unanimous win in the last round earned them a place in the knockout stages, where they



Senior Debating - Will O'Dwyer, Liam O'Dwyer, Conor Alyward, Larry Phelan.
Absent from picture; Tommy Doyle, and Hugh Kelly.



Junior Debating - Our junior debaters showcased impressive critical thinking and public speaking skills this year and will no doubt be a fantastic team in the future.

competed among the best schools in the country.

In the knockout round, the team impressively proposed the motion that 'Gen Z has the power to end Global Poverty'. However, their incredible journey came to a heartbreaking end when they were narrowly defeated by a very formidable team in Magh Ene College. Despite this, the team's achievements were outstanding in 2025 and 2026 and we recognise the

students' contribution to their team and the school. We look forward to seeing what our debaters achieve next year while we wish our outgoing Leaving Certificates every success in their futures and their upcoming exams.

We would also like to thank Ms McQuaid, Mr Ryan and Ms Staunton for their contributions in mentoring and supporting the debating team this year.

Dail Visit



During the year our Student Council visited Leinster House. The students got to see Leaders' questions in the Dail Chamber while also getting a tour of the Seanad. Thanks to Natasha Newsome Drennan TD for organising the visit for our students.

Active Schools

Active Schools is an initiative with the aim of getting more students and staff more active more often in our schools. We in St Kieran's College were very lucky to be chosen as a pilot school to roll out the very successful Active School Flag programme for post primary schools in 2022. Our current TY Active School Flag class have engaged in this endeavour this year and we are truly delighted to receive the Flag.



ACTIVE SCHOOL FLAG AWARD

Delighted to be awarded the Active School Flag having piloted this fantastic initiative in our school for the past four years. Well done to all of our TY students (past and present) who contributed so much over the years. Also very grateful to Mr Tom Brennan and Mr Michael Connolly for their hard work commitment in leading the programme. St Kieran's is now one of only a handful of post-primary schools to have received the flag having piloted this programme over the past four years



ACTIVE SCHOOLS WEEK 2026

Our Second Years made good use of our outdoor classroom - bringing some active movement into their learning through the dice challenge game - lots of other activities were organised for active schools week 2026



Active Schools Week



Active Schools Week



ASF Soccer tournament for Second Year students.

Ar Ais Le Cheile

Ar Ais Le Cheile is an initiative within the St Kieran's College school community which seeks to promote and reward excellent behaviour and engagement from our students. This year a number of classes were rewarded for their engagement with different trips to Kilkenny Activity Centre, Kiltorcan Race Track and IMC Cinema.



1D enjoying bowling as part of Ar Ais le Cheile.



Green Schools Committee Green Flag for Travel and Mobility



St Kieran's College Transition Year students enjoying their cycling module learning the rules of the road for cyclists, safety for cyclists and fun in the fresh air!



by John Keher

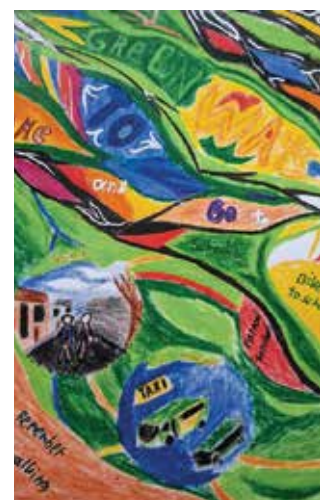
This year we continued working towards earning our Mobility Flag. The Mobility Flag is earned by increasing the number of students walking, cycling, and carpooling to school.

At the start of the year, we conducted a mobility survey by visiting classrooms and gathering information on how students get to school and what is preventing them from walking or cycling. We also took part in mobility management meetings with other schools in Kilkenny. The group met multiple times throughout the year to discuss ways to encourage students to walk and cycle to school.

This led to the "Strava Challenge," which took place across four schools. The challenge encouraged students to record their journeys to school on their phones, with prizes awarded to those who participated. We also held an art competition for first year students, asking them to design a poster encouraging people to cycle or walk to school. A presentation ceremony was then held for the winners, along with a safety talk on travelling to school.

We also partnered with the Bike Hub to run a programme where students could bring their bikes into school for a free safety check and minor repairs. Near the end of the year, we had our application meeting for the Mobility Flag, where we presented our efforts to encourage active travel to school.

We were also invited to give a presentation at the Green Schools Awards Ceremony in May, in front of other schools, in the hope of inspiring them to take part in some of our initiatives. Overall, it was a successful year, and we hope to continue our work in 2027"



Truck and Tractor Run



Sunday the 19th of April 2026 saw the return of the annual St Kieran's College Charity Truck and Tractor Run. This year was in aid of Maria Hogan and the treatment which she needs which is a very worthy cause and one close to the hearts of many different members

of the school community. The run was planned by TYs Shane O'Dwyer, Hugh Byrne, Ben Raggett, Oisín Ryan and Andrew Dillon with the help of Mr Tomkins. There was an excellent attendance from both tractors and trucks with the oldest being a 1954

Ferguson 20 tractor which led the run and the newest a brand new 261 Case tractor. Many thanks to all participants and fundraisers who supported this worthy cause and we look forward to welcoming more entries to the Run in 2027.



Sustainability in St Kieran's College

Oran McKenna, Nathen McMahon

Throughout the year, the school has visited local groups and enterprises such as Fitzgerald Nurseries in Stoneyford and the Acorn Project in Urlingford. The purpose of these visits have been to learn about different native tree species and sustainable practices in growing plants. It is also a way of building connections with local people and groups so that they can pass on their knowledge to the students, and that the students in turn can volunteer at the sites. Activities included sowing acorns, setting up raised beds, building an outdoor classroom and harvesting seeds of native species such as Hawthorn.

A group of Transition Years also took part in a sustainable gardening workshop with Niamh from Cool Greens Gardening School, which was a hands-on introduction to environmentally friendly practices and how to maintain a garden. All knowledge learned this year will be passed on to the younger years during the final term.

At the beginning of the year, the first few weeks of TY Sustainability Studies consisted of setting up our school garden and outdoor classroom, along with help from TY Art, Woodwork and LC Biology classes. Equipment and a greenhouse was purchased using a government grant for ESD. The module consisted of a range of activities and topics to do with Sustainability and incorporated the Model School programme, which was facilitated by Therese Myslinski of Education for Sustainability.



The Acorn Project



TY farm visit

Ionad Chiaráin - our new Autism Class

The establishment of 'Ionad Chiaráin' this year, our new Autism Special Class, is something our school is incredibly proud of. It marks an important step in maintaining an inclusive and supportive environment where all students feel valued and respected.

Students in Ionad Chiaráin benefit from a calm, structured space tailored to their needs, while also being active members of the wider school community through mainstream classes, activities, and initiatives supported by mainstream teachers

and teachers in the Autism class.

What makes Ionad Chiaráin so special is the positive impact it has had on students across the whole school. Friendships have grown naturally and it is great to see some of our students in the class becoming more confident each day.

We are also excited that two modular autism classrooms will be completed in time for next September. This development reflects our ongoing commitment and pride in supporting all students to thrive.



St Kieran's Day



Every year on the 5th March, we celebrate the feast day of St Kieran. This is a tradition which has been passed on throughout the generations for many years. It is a day for the whole school community to gather, to pause for reflection, to celebrate Mass and to enjoy activities. This year was no different. The entire school community including current and former staff and students, members of the trustees, Board of Management and Parents' Association gathered to celebrate Mass, giving that for all that we are as a school community. Many activities were planned for Friday 6th March including kayaking, basketball, bowling, karting and tennis to name a few. St Kieran's Day is always a highlight in the school calendar and always proves to be a memorable day of celebration for all.





The years that shaped us



Luke Browne

There's no doubt Sixth Year is a year of tunnel vision, where the rapidly approaching exams in June take centre stage in the minds of many. It is for this reason I welcome the opportunity to reflect back on my time in Kieran's and take a momentary break from the monotonous revision. As I read other student's versions of this piece, my own personal memories begin to resurface.

Like the vast majority of students, I still remember feeling a little intimidated starting out with secondary school, but I'd argue St Kieran's has a bit more of a presence, given its stoic appearance. I remember when I was quite young and I used to be waiting in the car with my mam to pick up my brother, I imagined what it might look like on the inside and how I would love to explore the ins and outs of the grounds. Those imaginings definitely contributed to an element of excitement as we started out as a year group in 2020.

Our First Year experience was pretty unique when you compare it to a typical first year in secondary school. Due to the infamous Covid-19, we each had a base classroom where we essentially didn't leave other than for classes like art and technology. I personally didn't mind at all, as I was secretly dreading the thoughts of having to navigate corridors with lads twice my size knocking around.

The abnormalities didn't stop there. At Christmas time, we were told that we had an extra two weeks at home due to another lockdown. Of course, it wasn't simply more holidays. Google Classroom became the focal point of

school where there was a novelty to online classes and scanning homework to send in. I'm sure I can speak for most in saying I did the absolute bare minimum and definitely spent an absurd amount of time playing Xbox with my friends. Having said that, we were kept active by the various Strava challenges posted by Mr Brennan and the assigned activities for P.E., so in all it was a well balanced period of relaxation and activity.

Second Year is when our true Kieran's experience kicked off. I remember attending the first Kieran's vs CBS showdown, and it did not disappoint. Whilst I'm sure there was certain frowned-upon activity, I remember coming away from it feeling a real sense of community, where we all felt like we were a part of the renowned Kieran's support.

That year was marked by a tragedy nobody could have prepared for. In November 2021, Harry Byrne passed away. Losing a classmate so suddenly was devastating and shook our entire year group to the core. I can speak on behalf of everyone in saying that Harry was a true breath of fresh air and will always live on in our memories. In the wake of his passing, we came together as a year group, supporting one another and forging a bond that remains strong today.

Whilst the details of First and Second Year are definitely hazy in my mind, I do remember we left the base classroom thing behind around Easter time and we started having to move from class to class. This was something I really enjoyed. I remember the weather was unreal that summer, and each time in between classes you could get a quick blast of heat and fresh air.

I struggle to recall the Second Year exams, however I certainly recall the academic detail of the year that followed. Given the unique nature of our First and Second Year, the majority of us were coasting along, knowing the dreaded Junior Cert was so far away, and not something to give a thought. Then September of Third Year rolled around and all of a sudden we actually had to start studying and compiling the coursework over the last two years. I did trial for the soccer team in Third Year however which was a great escape from class every now and again. I also seized the opportunity to play in positions

I didn't usually play in which I really enjoyed.

The first flavour of state exams came with the mocks in February which delivered many rude awakenings to say the least. The months that followed I thoroughly enjoyed in truth. By then, many had formed friendships that will last a lifetime, which certainly made the ever-increasing workload far more bearable. I spent a couple of mornings in the study hall in the days leading up to the Junior Cert. I remember the beautifully crisp mornings with the windows open and, dare I say it, I look back fondly on those mornings of study. The Junior Cert came and went as it always does and then came the real treat. Summer holidays, TY and Summer holidays again, a utopian prospect to say the least.

Strolling into school at the end of August was almost glorious. We were given an assembly on the endless possibilities of TY and that it could be whatever you moulded it to become. In the words of Mr Fitz, 'you get out what you put into it'. The surfing trip to Tramore came around right away and many still maintain that it was one of the best trips we went on. The waves may not have been of Byron Bay quality, but that certainly did not take away from the fun. I'm sure we looked absolutely pathetic to a spectator but it was a truly exhilarating experience.

Then came the highly anticipated musical auditions. There's no doubt singing solo in front of Mr Walsh and Ms McElwee is absolute nightmare fuel, to me it is anyways. The spacious canteen also echoed your voice back into your ears, allowing me to hear my miserable rendition of "Believe" by Cher not once but twice. I somehow made the cut, and whilst I didn't have a significant role in it, I thoroughly enjoyed admiring all the talent on display.

My favourite trip to TY was unexpected, a mountain-biking trip with Mr Cotter. It wasn't very promising based on the first twenty-five minutes of pedaling hard up a mountain, but that only made for an even more satisfying descent. An undeniably scary idea of hurtling down trails with trees coming at you at pace quickly became an unforgettable experience. I had never mountain-biked before the trip, and after ten minutes I was really impressed

with myself. The exhilaration combined with the laughs when someone misjudged their capabilities made for a real cherished memory of mine.

Given the relaxed nature of Transition Year, the universal experience of the Leaving Cert had me taken aback. Up until Fifth Year it was simple, take out the books a week before exams and bash through a few chapters. The first two weeks in Mr Lynch's class gave me the clarity of what would be required. After the initial few weeks lads started to settle down and get used to the standards and expectations, and after the October exams I think everyone had cemented a routine for themselves.

For most, Fifth Year predominantly revolved around the exams, always indicating where you were at with your

subjects, but you still had plenty of free time. I partook in the senior soccer team again which always provided a welcomed break from classes.

When September of Sixth Year rolled around, the first message drilled home was the pace at which the year marches on. It's not that I didn't believe it but more an idea of "9 months is 9 months, it can only feel so fast". Whilst the year has certainly whizzed by, it has been particularly enjoyable. The success of the hurlers made for some unforgettable days, whether it be driving to Rathdowney with the lads or getting the bus up to Dublin for a big day in Croke Park. I have found that whilst the study in Sixth Year is relatively constant, the freedom and events that go along with it make for an

exceptionally exciting and fulfilling year.

As I sit here during my Easter holidays, with June approaching faster than many of us would like, reflecting on my time at Kieran's has made me truly appreciate these years. It's a comforting thought that, while each of us is preparing for a range of different ambitions and goals, we all share similar fond memories of our six years here. We've had countless laughs together, as well as moments that brought us closer as a year group. Though we will soon be leaving the school, many friendships and memories will endure. I wish all my classmates the very best of luck in the exams this June, and more importantly, in everything you choose to pursue beyond the Leaving Cert.

Leaving Cert Results 2025

Well done to the Leaving Cert class of 2025 on achieving an outstanding set of results. We wish them all the very best in their chosen careers paths.



Well done to Ruairi Phelan, Daniel Devereux and Sean Moloney on achieving 625 points in LC 2025.



Sixth Year Signatures

James Halahan
 Cian Holohan
 T Comerford
 CIARAN COONE
 Peter Kealy
 Zittan Ryan
 Mark Dalton
 Cayden Byrne
 Dean Herbert
 David Barcoe
 Felix Fwamba
 JACK DOOLEY
 Ivin Sony
 Louis Lawlor
 Owen Shine
 Rickard Burke
 Euan Wall
 Sam Mackay
 Bill Mc Dermott
 Diarmuid Bohan
 Caothol O'Dwyer
 Jarvis Doyle
 Charlie Carroll
 Marc Doherty
 Tadhg Bergin
Reviats
 Liam O'Leary
 Fionn Mahony
 Jake Muller
 Luke Browne
 Hugh Kelly
 Luke Lawlor
 Aaron Fox
 David Travers
 Eli Lynch
 Ronan Harrigan
 Connor O'Dillon
 Connor O'Donoghue
 Cian Timmy Carr
 Joe holohan
 Tadhg Byrne
 Sky Omari
 Conor Dowling
 Scott Menessy
 Daniel Smith
 Andrew Comerford
 Eoin Walpole
 Conor Millea
 Cian Power
 Prian Shefflin
 Joseph Layton
 Connor Gillons
 Colleen Rossiter
 James Murphy
 Rory Moore
 Conor Harrigan
 James Wallace
 Cian Aylward
 Michael O'Shea
 Kieran Carter
 James O'Meara
 Uisgeann Keedeychuck
 Kieran Timmins
 Cormac Holden
 Robbie Lynch
 Lang Phelan
 Cian Hickey
 Harris Conroy
 Tiernan Shefflin
 Rob McEvoy
 Jack Walsh
 Tom Coyle
 Brian Healy
 Daniel Ryan
 Hugh Whelan
 Tom Murphy
 Eoin Ryan
 Eoghan Phelan
 Conor Hebbenan
 Josh Breeze
 Liam Ireland Wall
 Daniel Patterson
 Evan Denny
 Cian Doherty
 Ben Denny

Junior Cert Results 2025



3A1



3A2



3A3



3A4



3A5

Chaplaincy in St Kieran's College



Cairdeas 2025/2026

CAIRDEAS 2025/26

by Conor Marry (Fifth Year)

During TY I signed up to be a Cairdeas leader for the incoming First Years. I've always wanted to do it as I had a great experience with my own Cairdeas when I came into the school and he really helped me to settle in. A group of us signed up with Mr Brennan filling out a survey to get the role and

were excited to hear we got to join the programme. We did training with Mr Brennan before meeting the lads on their very first day. On this day we talked to our groups and toured the school showing them where their classes would be. As the weeks went on we met up with the lads regularly working through activities and playing games helping them become more confident in their new school and

around their new classmates. We meet them for eight workshops throughout the year factoring in areas such as team building, respect, self awareness to name a few. Cairdeas is a great thing to have in the school as it provides a safe space for the new students to talk and go if they have any problems. It's also a great learning experience for the Fifth Year leaders who are preparing towards their future after school.



FIRST YEAR FRIENDSHIP DAY

by Oscar Doyle (1D)

On the 9th of September in 2025 all of the First Years had a Friendship Day. First we went to Mass in St Mary's Cathedral. After that we went for a walk in Castle Park. We went down the canal and went onto the front green in the Castle Park. We then all received a sheet of paper including tasks we had to complete like 'Find a person who is an only child' and also 'Find someone who has been abroad on holidays before'. These were to help us get to know each other better and help us settle in easier. Later on we went back to the school and got pizza in the canteen. After our pizza we all played a big soccer tournament on the pitch which was great fun. I really enjoyed the day and also got to know my year group and classmates much better also.





SECOND YEAR RETREAT

by Ger Cody

My year group and I left the school for a retreat on September 24th 2025 and got on a bus outside the school to go to Graiguenamanagh. When we arrived we walked to the church called Duiske Abbey for mass. When mass was over we walked to the supervalu to get some food before we went on the walk. We had our food outside supervalu beside the river. Then we walked over the bridge and started our walk towards St Mullins. It was a very hot day with no clouds in the sky. We arrived at Mullicháin café on the bank of the River Barrow. We stayed there for a while and ordered pizza from the cafe, it didn't take long before the food came out. We all sat down on the benches beside the river, the food was really nice and it was lovely beside the river as the views were amazing. We finished our food and sat there and chatted until the buses were ready to go. We walked up a road to the bus and the two buses were ready to go and we all got on. Overall the retreat was very good and the weather was great. I think they should do one every year and it's a very good idea to help year groups bond together outside of the classroom.

We stayed there for a while and ordered pizza from the cafe, it didn't take long before the food came out. We all sat down on the benches beside the river, the food was really nice and

it was lovely beside the river as the views were amazing. We finished our food and sat there and chatted until the buses were ready to go. We walked up a road to the bus and the two buses were ready to go and we all got on. Overall the retreat was very good and the weather was great I think they should do one every year and it's a very good idea.



AMBER FLAG

The Amber flag is an initiative by Pieta House which recognises the individual efforts of schools to create healthy, inclusive environments that support mental well-being. The amber flag enables schools across the country to raise awareness of the stigmas which exist across the country.

As part of this initiative, St Kieran's College amber flag team consists of 'Cairdeas' leaders and John Paul II Awards recipients but is indeed a whole school effort. The amber flag team, along with the chaplain, Mr Brennan, are tasked with organising events and schemes to promote and improve mental well-being throughout the school.

As a school, we are delighted to recently receive word that we have been yet again approved for our amber flag. We hope to organise more activities and events next year to improve mental health throughout the school.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

As part of Anti-Bullying week our TY John Paul II students created and delivered an excellent presentation to our First Years for Anti-Bullying Week!

They also highlighted the new 'Bi Cineálta' framework for schools — promoting kindness, respect and inclusion across our community. Well done lads.



Anti Bullying Week @ SKC

What it is and How we can deal with it



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2026 AT ST KIERAN'S COLLEGE

Catholic Schools Week 2026 was celebrated at St Kieran's College from 18th–24th January 2026, with students and staff taking part in a wide range of activities throughout the week. This year's theme, "Catholic Schools: Normal Lives Called to Holiness," offered a lovely opportunity for our school community to reflect on how holiness can be lived out in everyday life through prayer, friendship, family, service, courage, joy, and mission.

As Ireland's oldest Catholic secondary school, founded in 1782, Catholic Schools Week holds a special significance in St Kieran's College. It is a time to celebrate our rich heritage, our shared faith, and the values that continue to shape our school community today.

The week began on Monday with the theme "Called to Holiness Through Prayer." To mark the beginning of the celebrations, students from First Year through to Sixth Year took part in both a poster competition and a creative writing competition based on the overall theme, "Catholic Schools: Normal Lives Called to Holiness." A special Catholic Schools Week banner, created by students, was also displayed prominently in the school to highlight the importance of the week and its message.

On Tuesday, the focus shifted to "Called to Holiness Through Love and Friendship." Students in First and Second Year participated in a quiz fundraiser in support of the Transition Year Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes.

The theme for Wednesday was

"Called to Holiness in Family Life." On this day, John Paul II Award students visited local primary schools where they taught a religion class centred on the vital role of the family in passing on the faith. This was a valuable and faith-filled experience, allowing students to share their own understanding of how family life is central to Catholic identity and formation.

On Thursday, the theme was "Called to Holiness Through Service and Courage." Continuing their active involvement during the week, the John Paul II Award students took part in Eucharistic Minister Training. This was a meaningful opportunity for them to deepen their understanding of service within the Catholic Church and to explore how acts of service and courage can be lived out practically within our school community. Thanks to Ms Gemma Mulligan and Ms Tina Lawlor for facilitating the training for our students.

The week concluded on Friday with the theme "Called to Holiness Through Joy and Mission." Our First Year students prepared and presented a beautiful Mass for their grandparents and loved ones, creating a prayerful and joyful celebration of faith, family,

and community. Following the Mass, the lads brought their grandparents back to the school for tea, coffee, and treats. A cake for staff was also shared to celebrate the joy and mission of our teachers, SNAs, and all who contribute so much to the life of St Kieran's College each day.

Catholic Schools Week 2026 was a special occasion in St Kieran's College. Through prayer, creativity, service, learning, and celebration, students were reminded that holiness is not something distant or extraordinary, but something that can be lived out in the ordinary moments of daily school life.

We are proud to continue its long tradition of faith, learning, and service, and Catholic Schools Week remains a powerful reminder of the unique role Catholic schools play in forming young people to live lives of purpose, compassion, and holiness.

JOHN PAUL II ACTIVITIES

by Sam Medlar (TY)

Eucharistic minister - I applied to become a eucharistic minister because I thought it would be a beneficial



JPII Awards 2024-2025, Sunday 19th October 2025.



John Paul II 2025-2026

qualification to have, the course was very interesting and helpful and I got to experience handing out holy communion.

Teaching religion to 6th class. Students in St Canice's - We went to St Canice's primary school to teach 6th class students about religion and different peoples beliefs. We went on grandparents day and encouraged the students to appreciate their grandparents and loved ones and to say a prayer.

Carol Service - We organised the St Kieran's College carol service, it was a great success everyone involved had a great time and it was a beautiful ceremony. Our junior and senior choir both performed brilliantly and friends and family all attended

Kierans Day Mass - We also organised Kieran's Day mass where Fr Ryan held a lovely ceremony. We were very proud to be organising an event like this because it is a very important milestone in the year. It symbolises



Eucharistic Minister 2025-2026

the founding story of our school and allows us to celebrate who we are.

Catholic Schools Week - As the oldest Catholic Secondary School in the Country, we were delighted to organise a number of events for Catholic Schools Week.

We had Grandparents Mass, teaching in local primary schools, Cake for staff, designed a flag to have around the school among many other

initiatives which contributed to a great week.

Parish work - In my local parish I try my best to help out where I can, I distributed eucharist during mass in my parish church called the 'Church of the Assumption'. I also helped the hurling club clean all around the village using litter pickers and bags and I helped coaching the U10s on the weekend.



St Kieran's College students at the Synod in Lyrath Estate Hotel.



**MENTAL HEALTH WEEK
2025/26**

Our annual whole school Mental Health Week took place from 6th-10th of October in St Kieran's College. During Mental Health Week, the school walls are also decorated with positive mental health slogans for all our students to see.

On Monday, October 6th, Sixth Year students received a talk from former Olympian, Kenneth Egan who spoke about his own troubles with addiction along with his mindset in getting him onto the Olympic podium.

On Tuesday, October 7th and

Wednesday, October 8th, first & second year students participated in a number of outdoor activities in teams incorporating all classes to take time out to get to know each other, improving friendships and bonds within their year groups in St Kieran's College.

On Wednesday, October 8th, Fifth Year students received a very informative talk from Tony O'Reilly (Tony 10) who spoke to the students about the dangers of gambling.

On Thursday, October 9th, Third Years received a talk from Elma Walsh, mother of Donal Walsh from Tralee, Co. Kerry. Donal who fundraised tirelessly

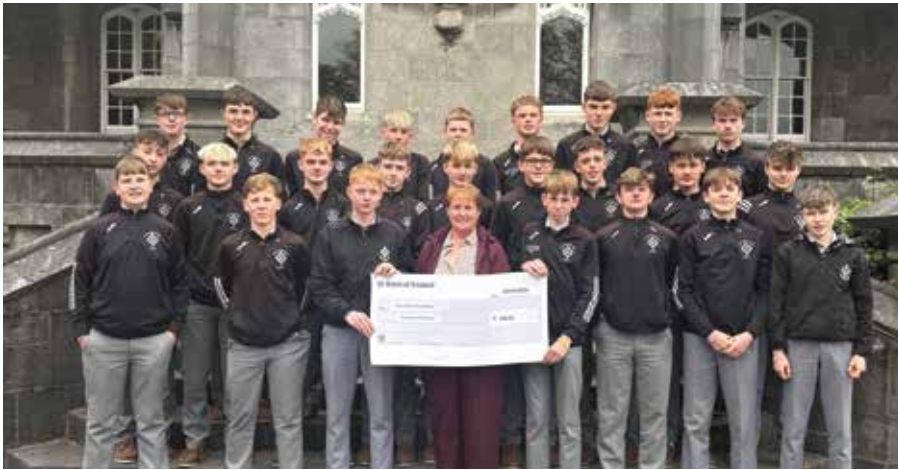
while battling Cancer has now had the Donal Walsh #Livelife Foundation set up by his family primarily in order to promote his anti-suicide #Livelife message. This message of living life to the fullest and appreciating everything you have around you continues to be highlighted by both Elma and her husband Fionnbar.

During the week, students donate money to charity and in total we raised €1200 with the chosen charities of Cois Noir Kilkenny, and the Good Shepherd nominated by the Amber Flag team.

Well done and thanks to all speakers and those who contributed to a very special and successful week.



First Year - Outdoor Activities



Third Year with Elma Walsh



Thanks to Elma Walsh @donalwalshlivelife who visited the school to speak to our Third Year students. Elma has been a regular visitor to the school over the last number of years where she continues to spread Donal's #Livelife and positive mental health message. Thanks as always Elma for joining us.



Fifth Year with 'Tony 10'

'Tony 10' spoke to our Fifth Year students about the impacts of Gambling. Thanks as always to Tony for sharing his personal journey to the lads.



Sixth Year with Kenny Egan.

Christmas at St Kieran's

SHOEBOX APPEAL 2025

Many thanks to all of our students and parents who donated so generously to our Team Hope Shoebox Appeal and to Mary & Roisin Foley for their ongoing work on behalf of this worthy cause. Thanks to Mr Evan Walsh for organising.



CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT STATE STREET



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Christmas Carol Service

The annual St Kieran's College Christmas Carol Service took place on Thursday, December 11th and was a wonderful celebration of music, reflection, and prayer. Students, staff, families, and friends gathered together for an evening centred around this year's theme, "Light in the Darkness."

The service featured a wide variety of musical performances from the Jazz Band, Senior Band, Trad Band, Chamber Groups, Junior Choir, and Senior Choir. Highlights of the evening included 'Walking in the Air', 'Oh Holy Night', and the closing carol 'Oh Come All Ye Faithful'.

Throughout the evening, readings and reflections reminded everyone of the importance of hope, kindness, and community, especially during the Christmas season. Students spoke about the small acts of support and encouragement that make St Kieran's College such a positive and welcoming place.

The service was a great success and showcased the outstanding talent and spirit within the school community.



Fifth Year Agricultural Science Trip to Kildalton College



The Fifth Year Agricultural Science classes attended The Agri Aware Open Day in Kildalton College on Thursday March 12th. Upon arrival to Kildalton College we were informed about biosecurity measures to prevent disease entering the farm so all footwear was disinfected. The theme of the trip was based on our project for the Leaving Certificate which is to investigate the relationship between agricultural inputs and outputs to ensure agricultural efficiency, sustainable farming and food security.

We got a tour of the main enterprises on the farm i.e. beef, sheep, dairy, tillage, horticulture and equine. The lecturers gave us an insight into the operation of the different enterprises. Lectures included topics such as crop and animal husbandry, animal physiology, botany, zoology, sustainability, soil science, farm safety and precision farming using technological advances.

It was a very practical visit. Students had the opportunity to observe a soil profile, examine the digestive system

of a horse, compare progeny from two different suckler cows, observe the milking parlour and assist a ewe lambing!

Overall the trip was very worthwhile. Students got the chance to explore our project theme throughout the different enterprises. Students will be setting up a controlled scientific investigation for the project. We will gather and present data as well as analysing and formulating conclusions for our scientific report for the 2027 Leaving Certificate.

Wood Technology



Above: First year students were introduced this year to the subject of Wood Technology. Over the past few months they have been learning the basics of the subject.

Left: SecondYear Woodwork class after completing their coffee table project to an excellent standard.

Art

This year has been a really exciting year for the art department with lots of fantastic student work being created across all year groups. Students have worked exceptionally hard both in and outside the classroom on a variety of projects and workshops. Working from drawing, painting, sculpture to calligraphy and 3D studies. Trips to the Hugh Lane Gallery, Butler Gallery, Working with Artist Rudi-Lee McCarthy in Sustainability Workshops and Murals with students in Ionaid Chiarain. Well done to all students involved!



First Year Art



Junior Cycle Sketchbooks



Junior Cycle Sketchbooks



Junior Cycle Sketchbooks



Senior Cycle Trip to Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin

Business

STATE STREET VISIT

Huge thanks to Mark, Cecelia and all the team at State Street, Kilkenny for providing some of our Fifth Year Business and Computer Science students with the opportunity to visit their offices during the year. It was a brilliant opportunity for the lads to experience a modern progressive office environment and to have a good discussion on the funds industry, while exploring some career options.



TÍRLÁN

Our Fifth Year Accounting students had an incredible visit to Tírlán.

They learned all about the company's operations and background, got to listen to Tírlán's graduate team talk about career pathways and opportunities within the company, and got the chance to work in groups to create and present their own product ideas!



STUDENT ENTERPRISE AWARDS

Well done to Enda Cunningham for winning a special merit award at the Kilkenny student enterprise awards in Lyrath Hotel with his company "Enda's Hurl Stands" making personalised hurl stands. He was joined by fellow Ty students Sam McAviney and Sam Lawler at the awards ceremony last March.



Third year student Michael O'Keeffe being acknowledged by Kilkenny County Council for his Student Enterprise success.

English



Literacy Week visit to Mayfair Library - 1D signed up in our local library and spent some time browsing and borrowing books. A big thank you to Mayfair Library for welcoming us and showing us around.



LITERACY WEEK

From cover to cover, our 2026 Literacy Week was a success. Students across all year groups had a chance to participate in a wide range of activities, from our highly competitive First Year Spelling Bee tournament to our TY Escape Room challenges. Teachers took the opportunity to get involved in the action too, with staff sharing their favourite books on their classroom doors, sparking curiosity and conversation with students. Even more spectacular was the purpose-built library box created for staff to swap books in the staffroom. Across the week, there were fantastic conversations about novels, stories, and literacy in all its forms, both inside and outside the classroom. For your Word of the Day, we can suggest one that best describes our Literacy Week: Inspiring!

RHYME BAG POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP

by Paddy Raftice Second year

In February a group of 15 students from Second year took part in a writing workshop for Rhyme Rag Kilkenny with the writer Alice Bennett. What follows is an account of the poetry writing workshops from Paddy Raftice.

I found my experience doing this to be very educational, enhancing my ability to understand and write poetry. With Alice's guidance I learned how to create ideas so my poetry would have a base and a soul to it.

In the first workshop we made a poem about 'my soul'. Alice showed us a video by Darragh Fleming that really opened my eyes to poetry. After I saw the emotion in his eyes telling



Second Year Poetry Rhyme Rag Workshop.

his story of his name I felt inspired that maybe poetry is better than I thought. With Alice Bennett's advice I was able to write my first poem. When I read it aloud to my mother later that day she was impressed and very happy to hear it.

The second day we did the poetry workshop I honestly felt excited. Once you see poetry with someone who knows it so well you begin to see it differently, like a work of art. This time we wrote a haiku. A haiku is a Japanese poem made popular by Matsuo Basho who made poems that were like seeing a clear image of nature of a stillness money couldn't buy. Alice showed us some which amazed me. With so few words an art form could appear. I made multiple poems which I was very proud of and that evening I was still thinking about the haiku he wrote. How stillness and art could reside in a pen.

After we wrote a haiku we did a group renku which I found to be a fascinating group activity. From only 17 syllables a story could evolve and

become not just a poem but a journey.

On the last day I enjoyed writing a haibun. This is where a poem is combined with a vivid story. I wrote mine on a happy day trip I went on. Writing the poem recreated that feeling of contented delight.

I noticed a difference in the workrate in the room. The room began to transition from a class of students to a group of poets. We all wrote our haibuns and the difference from the start to finish of this experience was amazing. At the start I didn't feel that poetry was my thing though I never ever did it with a mentor as experienced as Alice.

In the future I hope that I will be involved in such activities since I know that my poetry skills have improved tenfold. So in conclusion I found Alice Bennett's poetry workshops to be very beneficial and what I may have never considered to be my thing is now something I hope to do in the upcoming years.



Many thanks to past pupil and *Irish Times* journalist Enda McEvoy for joining us in the College earlier this year to give a workshop with some of our senior students.

Spanish



Vigo, Spain (David Waldron TY)

For the Halloween term of 2025, I travelled to the city of Vigo, in the north of Spain, to live and attend school for five weeks. While there, I tried many new experiences and had a time I will never forget. During this time in Vigo, I stayed with a host family who lived on the outskirts of the city. They had twin boys my age, Gonzalo and Diego, which was really helpful for me settling in. I attended the local secondary school, San José de Cluny, where I completed subjects similar to those here in Ireland as well as the local dialect, Galician. It was difficult at the beginning to understand what people were saying and adjust to the speed of conversation. However, as the weeks went by, I found myself understanding more and more and becoming more confident in speaking Spanish.

The main differences between Ireland and Spain were the times at which we ate food and the type of food we ate. We had a very large lunch during the day at around one o'clock and did not eat dinner until ten o'clock at night, so this was definitely a big change from Ireland. In the north of Spain especially, they eat lots of different types of fish such as prawns and mussels, again this was very different from what I am used to here in Ireland. My favourite thing to do in Vigo was to explore the city. During my stay, I got to visit local parks, markets, the stadium of Celta Vigo, many historic buildings and the famous Vigo Christmas Lights.



As part of their Spanish class, second year students had the opportunity to taste some typical Spanish foods such as el chorizo, el jamón y las aceitunas. Thanks to the TYB students for helping. ¡Qué aproveche!

The school day started at 09.00, and we had seven classes each day on Monday and Tuesday, finishing at 5pm. On Wednesday to Friday we had six classes finishing at 3pm. Homework was the same as in Kilkenny.

I enjoyed experiencing the culture, traditions, and daily life of a Spanish family, which gave me a deeper understanding of the country. By the end of my exchange, my Spanish had improved greatly, especially my confidence in listening and speaking. This exchange is something I would definitely recommend to incoming fourth-year students, and it was, for me personally, one of the highlights of the year.



Gaeilge

GAELBHRATACH 2025/2026

Cuireadh tús leis an scéim Ghaelbhratach i mbliana le himeacht traenála i gCeatharlach. D'fhreastail triúr scoláire ón gcoiste Gaeilge (David Barcoe, Conor McEvoy agus Kieran Timmons as an séú bliain) ar an imeacht seo, áit ar bhain siad tairbhe agus taitneamh as an oiliúint agus na smaointe a rinneadh leo.

Le linn na bliana, d'oibrigh an coiste Gaeilge go díograiseach chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn timpeall na scoile. Cuireadh fáilte roimh scoláirí na chéad bhliana le himeacht speisialta ag Oíche Shamhna, áit ar eagraíodh gníomhaíocht chruthaitheach le puimcíní sa seomra faoin aer.

I rith Gaeilge24, ghlac scoláirí na Sraithe Sóisearaí páirt i lá lán le himeachtaí spráúla agus idirghníomhacha ar nós biongó agus tráth na gceist.

Ag am na Nollag, eagraíodh clár leathan imeachtaí don scoil ar fad, ina measc comórtais éagsúla, tráth na gceist agus taispeántais scannán (Róise agus Frank), rud a chothaigh atmaisféar dearfach agus spráúil timpeall na Gaeilge.

Tosaíodh an bhliain nua le ceardlann Seó Bóthar ina rinneadh smaointí cruthaitheacha agus nuálaíocha leis an gcoiste maidir leis an nGaeilge a chur chun cinn i suíomh na scoile. D'fhoghlaim an choiste an-chuid ón aoichainteoir Dómhnaill

I mí an Mhárta, rinneadh ullmhúchán cuimsitheach do Sheachtain na Gaeilge. Ghlac baill den choiste páirt i réimse leathan imeachtaí, lena n-áirítear freastal scoláirí na chéad bhliana ar cheolchoirm Burnchurch, agus ghlac siad páirt i siúlóid fholláine timpeall páirc an Caisleán. Cuireadh maidin chaife taitneamhach ar siúl do scoláirí na hArdteistiméireachta in Arán (bialann áitiúil sa cheantar).



Ina theannta sin, eagraíodh seisiúin cheoil leis an banna traidisiúnta na scoile, "tae agus plé", agus toraíocht tasice chun rannpháirtíocht na scoláirí uile a spreagadh.

Ar an iomlán, léirigh an coiste Gaeilge tiomántas agus fuinneamh ar feadh na bliana ar fad. Cruthaíodh timpeallacht dhearfach timpeall ar úsáid na Gaeilge sa scoil seo, agus mar thoradh ar an obair dhícheallach seo, baineadh amach an Ghaelbhratach — aitheantas tábhachtach a bhronntar ar scoileanna a léiríonn sáriarracht i gcur chun cinn na Gaeilge.

Baill shinsearachta an choiste: Kieran Timmins, David Barcoe, Liam O Dwyer, Conor McEvoy, Cormac Leahy, Tomás Carroll, Eoin Healy, Cian Dermody, Dan Hayes.

Baill shóisearacha an choiste: Noah Power, Ollie Medlar, Aiden Butler, JJ Fogarty, Darragh Fitzgerald, Tommy Ryle, Billy Butler, Oscar Doyle, James Dooley, Ed Mulrooney.

P.E.

GYMNASTICS

Thanks to Kilkenny Gymnastics Academy for having our First Years over again this year for their Gymnastics Module. A great set up with wonderful coaches to give the lads experience at a range of different gymnastic skills and disciplines.



TAG RUGBY

Thanks to Noel Devlin of Kilkenny and Leinster Rugby for coming in to do a TY Tag Rugby module again. Always a popular activity.



Geography



GEOGRAPHY WEEK 2026 – A CELEBRATION OF EXPLORATION AND LEARNING

by S. Morgan

Geography Week in the school was a vibrant and engaging celebration of all things geographical, with students across all year groups taking part in a wide range of activities that brought the subject to life in meaningful and enjoyable ways.

Our First Year students kicked off the week with a highly competitive table quiz. The atmosphere was electric as teams battled it out across a variety of geography-themed rounds. In the end, Table 22 emerged as worthy winners, with Daire O’Sullivan, Des O’Connell, Evan Mooney and Divine Fangha taking the top prize after an impressive performance.

Second Year students embraced a more digital approach, using the school laptops to take part in interactive

geography games such as Blooket and OpenGuesser. These activities tested their knowledge of countries, capitals, and landscapes in a fun and competitive way. They also took part in a geography-themed escape room challenge, which required teamwork, problem-solving, and a strong grasp of geographical concepts to succeed.

For Third Years, the focus turned to sustainability. Students participated in an engaging and thought-provoking workshop delivered by Therese Myslinski from Education for Sustainability. The workshop was highly interactive and encouraged students to explore the interconnected nature of global issues, helping them to better understand the role geography plays in shaping a more sustainable future.

Meanwhile, our Fifth Year geography class had the opportunity to bring their learning beyond the classroom with a field trip to Dunmore Cave. This was a fantastic experience,



allowing students to explore a unique karst landscape firsthand. The trip provided valuable insight into geological processes such as limestone formation and cave development, while also highlighting the rich history and natural beauty of the site. It was both an educational and memorable day for all involved.

A special word of thanks must also go to our Transition Year students for their excellent work in decorating the glass hall with flags and posters, creating a real sense of occasion throughout the week, and for their assistance in checking and correcting quiz questions. Finally, sincere thanks to Mr Ronan Lynch, Ms. Aoife McQuaid and Mr Joe Ryan for their energy, commitment and time in planning and organising such a successful and enjoyable Geography Week.

TRAMORE LC GEOGRAPHY TRIP

Earlier this year the Leaving Cert geography class went to Tramore as part of their geographical investigation. Here the lads measured the height of the cliffs, counted the wave frequency and looked for evidence of erosion in the beach fabric. A great opportunity to put the theory into practice.



History

THIRD YEAR HISTORY TRIP

Third Year students had a really enjoyable History trip to Glasnevin cemetery. Students visited the graves of many important historical figures. Thanks to Ms Staunton and the History Department for organising.



L-r: Mr Joe Ryan, Enda Cunningham (2nd Place), Conor Griffin (Highly Commended), Adam Staunton (1st Place), Mr Jason Dermody.

'FADÓ, FADÓ_ SPARKING MEMORIES' TY HISTORY COMPETITION

History came alive for our TY students as they celebrated their research projects in Kilkenny library. Their efforts were recognised at the Kilkenny Archaeological Society's 'Fadó, Fadó: Sparking Memories Competition', where they achieved outstanding success, securing 1st place, 2nd place, and five Highly Commended awards. The winning project was created by Adam Staunton, who investigated Ballyragget Castle and Townland, while second place was awarded to Enda Cunningham for his research into Burnchurch Castle. The students were invited to the Mayfair Library to celebrate their achievements and receive their prizes. Their work has also been submitted to a digital archive, where it will serve as a lasting record for future generations to study and enjoy, a piece of history the TY class have created themselves!

TY HISTORY TRIP

TY Heritage Module - As part of their Heritage Module, the 4B Transition Year class visited Maudlin Street, exploring the site of the medieval Hospital of St Mary Magdalene, founded to care for people with leprosy on the outskirts of the city.

The surviving tower house—Maudlin Castle is a lasting reminder of how healthcare, religion, and community life overlapped in medieval Ireland.

The group also visited the Peace Park, taking time to reflect at the Kilkenny Great War Memorial, which honours the county's First World War dead and was unveiled in 2018.



Maths

FIRST YEAR MATHS ALL-IRELAND

Maths High Achievers: Congrats to First Year students Ben O'Rourke and Bradley Rychert who achieved 95% or higher in their recent IMTA All-Ireland competition. Out of over 18,500 entries, from 280 schools, only 259 First Years achieved 95% or higher - Ben and Bradley were two such students and were presented with their IMTA medal recognising their achievements.



First Year Maths All-Ireland
l-r: Ben O'Rourke and Bradley Rychert.



Senior IAMTA Maths
l-r: Hugh Whelan, Conor Aylward and Dan Carroll.

SENIOR IAMTA MATHS

Senior Maths: Well done to Hugh Whelan, Conor Aylward and Dan Carroll who were runners-up in the recent Regional IAMTA Senior Maths Competition. The result means that the lads have now qualified for the All-Ireland final in April.

SECOND YEAR MATHS SUCCESS

Congrats to (l-r) Liam O'Callaghan, Nicholas Downey, Harry Concannon and Zack Hennessy who have qualified for the second-year @ pangeamath Maths 2026 Finals in DCU on 9th May. Following the evaluation of results from students representing over 100 schools across Ireland, the lads were selected to compete in this Saturday's final. The finalists represent some of the finest young mathematical talent in Ireland. Many thanks to Mr Gerry Walsh for organising



Second Year Pangea Maths All-Ireland
l-r: Liam O'Callaghan, Nicholas Downey, Harry Concannon and Zack Hennessy.



IAMTA Junior Problem Solving Competition
l-r: Michael O'Keefe, Darragh Carroll, Darragh Walsh, Rory Quigley, Harry Sempson, Jack Renehan, Paddy McCarthy, AJ Mackey, Canice Power, John Keher, Cormac Phelan.

JUNIOR IAMTA PROBLEM SOLVING COMPETITION

Congratulations to our Junior Maths students who came 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Regional IAMTA Junior Problem Solver Applied Maths Competition in Carlow in January. 1st place Jack Renehan, Paddy McCarthy, Harry Simpson, Rory Quigley - will progress to represent the school and our region in the All-Ireland final. A fantastic achievement also for 2nd place Darragh Walsh, Darragh Carroll, Michael O'Keefe and Kevin Stanley (absent from photo) and 3rd place AJ Mackey, Canice Power, John Keher and Cormac Phelan.



Pi Quiz Regional Winners
l-r: James Parsons, Shay Fitzgerald, Michael O'Keefe, Cormac Phelan.

PI QUIZ REGIONAL WINNERS

Junior Maths Regional Winners: Congrats to our Third Year students who won the Regional Pi Maths Competition today with Cormac Phelan, Michael O'Keefe, Shay Fitzgerald and James Parsons on the winning team. The winners will now represent the school in the All-Ireland Junior Problem Solver Championship in April.

Music

SIXTH YEAR MUSIC REFLECTION

by Corma Leahy

Throughout my tenure at St Kieran's College, the music department has unreservedly fostered my development as a musician. In first year, I walked into my first music class with a casual and vague notion that the subject might be something of interest to me. Almost six years later, I consider music to be a cornerstone of my identity. I believe that this shift is in no small part due to the support I have received from this school.

In first year, music was to me an undeniably enjoyable class. I looked forward to that one hour of the week when we would get to play ukuleles, mess around with the boom-whackers, and in an interactive environment, explore the basic tenets of music theory. Distinctly I recall experimenting with drum beats, each student getting the chance to work something out on the kit at the top of the room.

Needless to say, when the time came to choose Junior Cert subjects at the end of first year, music was a surety in my mind. It was around this time that I truly began to delve deeper into music and performance. That summer, my guitar was scarcely out of my hands, as was to become the case in the years that followed. In second and third year, we explored music production, performance and additional aspects of music theory. Everything we covered seemed both genuinely interesting and applicable.

Ms O'Connor had a fantastic system whereby at the end of each term, everybody would have to perform in front of the class as part of their exam. Although nerve-wracking, this experience ultimately built up our confidence, and when the occasion arose to perform again at open nights and awards nights, many of us thought little of it to step up and play.

In second year, by chance, I broke into the school jazz band as a bass player - a replacement for another student who couldn't make the annual competition at Wesley College. Following that, I was fortunate enough to join as a guitarist. Throughout my

stint in the group, we have performed at Wesley College Music Festival five times, frequently placing within the top four. Our conductor, Eamonn Cahill, has led us through concert after concert at end-of-year shows, Christmas shows and at whatever other event presented itself.

In second year, I remember a performance of 'Merry Xmas Everybody' by Slade at a Christmas concert. This was my first time singing on stage, and the first of several times I sang with the jazz band. I am truly grateful to have been afforded the opportunity to do so over the years.

I also took advantage of the opportunity to join the trad band - a particularly active group in our school music community, led by Mr Walsh, the band performs regularly throughout the year in both competitive and more laid-back settings. The visits to the nursing homes that we undertook were always a highlight for me.

The senior choir is another group I have been quite active in. Now led by Mr O Gorman and Mr Brennan, we get together regularly and tackle advanced pieces. Over the years, we have offered up a selection of intricately-arranged performances on a national level in Wesley College.

In transition year, I took part in the school musical, in which we collaborated with the Presentation Secondary School. It was an incredible experience, affording students the opportunity to meet new people and to perform in a wholly uncharted setting. Many of us who had shown

little musical inclination up to this point decided to take part, and I think everybody involved really did enjoy themselves. The music involved was known to us all - a wonderful soundtrack to which you could step out of your comfort zone.

There were of course plenty of other spontaneously-arranged groups I availed of the opportunity to get involved with. I have fond memories of the guitar ensemble organised by Ms Johnson, and of the 'senior band' organised by Mr O'Gorman, which developed just over the last year.

In relation to music I have produced outside of school, St Kieran's College has been categorically supportive, promoting the singles I have released on Instagram, and generating hype for my band in a local 'battle of the bands' competition.

At this point in the year, I can affirm that sixth year music itself is an engaging course. Composition and Harmony are examined on a more advanced level, and the set works in great detail. The practical element was something we placed particular emphasis on last year with Ms Johnson, while this year with Mr O Gorman we have honed our skills for the written paper.

Speaking I believe for all who cultivated a musical interest during their time at St Kieran's, I don't take it lightly the emphasis this school places on supporting the music department. Reflecting on the volume of performances that crop up year on year at our various events, our



Christmas Carols - Well done to our Third Year students who sang carols and festive songs for charity last December. Many thanks to the Bank of Ireland for hosting us and to all who gave so generously. Well done to all students and teachers involved.

determination to always prepare a well-executed show is a testament not only to the work of our musicians, but also to everybody behind the scenes who strives to see us well-prepared.

SECOND YEAR MUSIC REFLECTION

by Sam Woodcock

In St Kieran's College, music has been a huge part of my experience in Junior Cycle so far. As a second year student, I've had the opportunity to be involved in so many different areas of music in our school, and it has made school life more enjoyable and memorable.

We are lucky to have music classes with Mr E. O'Gorman, which give us the chance to build our skills, learn about different styles, and develop a deeper appreciation for music. Outside of class, there are even more opportunities to get involved. I am part of the trad band, jazz band, and the junior choir, and each group offers something unique.

The trad band rehearses on Mondays at lunchtime and brings great energy with traditional Irish music. Mr G. Walsh has put a lot of work into improving us all as musicians, while also keeping our practices fun. The jazz band, which practices on Wednesdays, allows us to explore a completely different style of music, working together on upbeat jazz and giving students a chance to play more modern music.

Choir is also a big part of music in our school. Being part of the Junior Choir has been a really rewarding experience, especially because you get to perform with so many other students and in different venues. Both the Junior and Senior Choirs would not be possible without Mr F. Brennan and Mr E. O'Gorman. They have put in a lot of effort into preparing us for public performances with confidence.

Each year, all of these groups take part in the music competition in Wesley College. This provides a great opportunity to perform, explore new pieces of music and represent our school.

I have played with these groups in many other events throughout my two years in Kieran's, which add to the atmosphere of school life and bring people together. Some of these events

that I have played at include: school masses, entertaining people in old folks homes, the annual Christmas Carol service and the Mayfair Library. We have also played on The Parade outside The Castle Park on different occasions, such as Yulefest and for St Patrick's Day. Whether it's performances at school events or competitions, there is always something to look forward to.

Overall, music in Junior Cycle has been a really positive experience for me. It has helped me build confidence, develop new skills, and be part of a community within the school. I'm looking forward to continuing music in the years ahead.

A YEAR IN SONG: SENIOR CHOIR REFLECTIONS

by Will O'Dwyer

Throughout the academic year, I had the privilege of being a member of the Senior Choir, an experience that proved both rewarding and memorable. The choir played an important role in a number of key school events, contributing to the musical life of the college in a meaningful and uplifting way.

One of the highlights of the year was the Christmas Carol Service, a wonderful evening filled with music, warmth, and community spirit. Among the performances, O Holy Night stood out as a particularly special moment, showcasing the choir's ability to deliver both power and sensitivity in

performance, while contributing to an evening of celebration and enjoyment.

The choir also took part in the St Kieran's Day Mass, where we had the opportunity to perform a varied and engaging repertoire. Beginning with On The Journey and concluding with the uplifting Shine Jesus Shine, the performance reflected both the solemnity and joy of the occasion, allowing us to explore a range of musical styles within a liturgical setting.

Although the Senior Choir had originally planned to participate in the Wesley College Choir Competition in Dublin with a rendition of When the Saints Go Marching In, a scheduling clash with St Kieran's Day meant we were unable to attend. However, it was encouraging to see the Junior Choir represent the school so strongly on that occasion. In a positive turn, the Senior Choir later revisited the piece, performing it at the end-of-year Awards Night, where it was met with great enthusiasm.

As the year draws to a close, I, along with all members of the Senior Choir, would like to extend sincere thanks to Mr Brennan and Mr O'Gorman for their dedication, guidance, and support. Their commitment made these experiences possible and helped foster a strong sense of teamwork and musical achievement within the group.

Being part of the Senior Choir has been a truly enjoyable and enriching experience, and I look forward to continuing this journey in the year ahead.



Music lessons went from strength to strength this year. As well as Eamon Cahill (Jazz) and Jeremy Hickey (Drums) taking a number of our students for lessons, Paul Brett (Guitar) and Niamh Sheehy (Singing) had great numbers and enthusiasm from students across all years to develop their musical abilities.

Choirs, Trad Band and Jazz in SKC

JAZZ BAND

by Marc Doheny

The Jazz Band has always been one of the highlights of school life for me, and this year has been no exception. Throughout the year, the band performed at a variety of events and venues, including our Christmas performances, the Christmas Mass, and, of course, the upcoming Awards Night celebration. Each performance reflected the talent, commitment, and enthusiasm that the group brings to every occasion.

This year also saw another memorable trip to the Wesley Jazz Festival. While the elusive title may still remain just out of reach, the day itself was filled with outstanding performances, great camaraderie, and a real sense of pride in what we achieved together. In many ways, the experience of preparing, performing, and representing the school means far more than any trophy ever could.

What audiences do not always see, however, are the countless rehearsals and hours of preparation that take place behind the scenes in the music room. The dedication shown by every member of the band throughout the year is what allows the group to perform to such a high standard and continue to grow musically together.

Over the course of my six years in the school, the Jazz Band has helped me to develop enormously as a musician, while also reminding me of the enjoyment, friendship, and energy that music can bring.

Finally, on behalf of all members of the band, past and present, I would like to express sincere thanks to our teacher and conductor, Eamon Cahill, whose passion, encouragement, and tireless commitment inspire us every day. His dedication to the group is at the heart of everything the Jazz Band has achieved, and it has been a privilege to be part of it.

JUNIOR CHOIR

by Cormac Phelan, David Blanchfield and Sam Norton

To join the Junior Choir in St Kierans College everyone would have to do



Jazz Band

Back row (l-r): Cormac Leahy, Emmet Murphy, Alyn Haerne, Marc Downey, Owen Shine.
Front row (l-r): Sam Woodcock, David Wardron, Hugh Chaney, Josh Butler, Harry Duggan, Owen Walsh.

an audition in front of Mr F Brennan and Mr O'Gorman. Most people in first, second and third year went for the choir but only 110 made the cut. When you auditioned and made the choir Mr F Brennan put into group one and group two. This was for certain songs we could have a group for high pitch and a group for low pitch. The Junior Choir is very competitive and great fun when you are in it.

The Junior Choir performed in the Christmas Carol Service around Christmas time. We sang two songs one by ourselves and the other with the Senior Choir. The Carol Service in St Kierans College always puts everyone in a festive mood.

On the week we got our Christmas holidays all of the third years from the Junior Choir went and sang in the Bank of Ireland, State Street and Yulefest on the Parade. This was great as we got time off school which everyone was happy with. For these events,

we sang many well known Christmas songs such as 'Santa Clause is Coming to Town', 'Rudolph the Red nosed reindeer' and many more.

We also sang at this year's annual St Kieran's Day mass along with members of the Senior Choir. This was also used to prepare for a competition in Wesley College later that week. We had many rehearsals that week in order to prepare for Wesley.

We left the school at 9am Friday morning and enjoyed a well spent morning in Dundrum shopping centre. Although we did not win anything in Wesley we still sang very well and a special mention to Noah power (1A) for his excellent solo too. A big thanks to Mr Brennan and Mr O'Gorman for the great year also to Mr B Maher and Mr O'Sullivan for their help in Dundrum and Wesley.

We also look forward to finishing off the year singing at the awards night.



Junior Choir



Senior Choir

Back row: Cathal Cahill, Alyn Hearne, Will O'Dwyer, Liam O'Dwyer, Cormac Leahy. Front row: Jim Carrigan, Jacob Thekkekara, Nevin Benny, Darragh Walsh, Marc Doheny, James Larkin.

TRAD BAND 2025-2026

The St Kieran's College Trad Band is a vibrant ensemble that has become a cornerstone of the school's musical life. Over the years, this talented group has flourished, sharing the rich heritage of Irish music with both the school and the wider Kilkenny community.

The band was delighted to welcome some new members this year: MJ Burke (fiddle), Charlie Shore (guitar, bass, and percussion), and Ms Donoghue (banjo).

The group had a busy opening few months, with performances at various school events, before continuing their annual visits to nursing homes around

the city. In December 2025, they played for residents at Drakelands, Archersrath, and Tinnypark nursing homes, and on the eleventh of that month, the band also performed at the school carol service.

In March 2026, the trad band entered the All-Ireland Traditional Irish Music Competition in Wesley College. This was an excellent experience for all and provided many students with their first taste of competition.

The group was delighted to be invited by Mayfair Library to perform a concert as part of the St Patrick's Week celebrations on 11th March. Locals gathered in the library to enjoy light

background music while they read or searched for their next novel.

On Friday, 13th March, the band entertained the public outside Kilkenny Castle, and on 18th March, they celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge in the school with a performance for all first-year students.

The trad band provides students with the opportunity to perform their instruments in front of audiences, gain confidence, and mix with students from other schools. We look forward to next year's events and hope to welcome more incoming traditional musicians in First Year 2026.



Trad Band

Back row l to r: Matthew Bowe, Charlie Shore, Eoghan Grant, Sean Corcoran, Tom Donovan, Liam Corcoran. Front row l to r: Cormac Leahy, Michael Tynan, Sam Woodcock, Conor Holohan, MJ Burke, Dan O'Keefe, Jack O'Neill. Missing from photo: Luke Lawlor, Larry Phelan.

Science



Second Year Science Fair.

Outdoor Classroom and Tunnel.

SCIENCE CLUB

by Toni Culjak and Breatnach Tobin 2A

This year in science club we did lots of cool and fun experiments, including stuff like making explosions and setting ourselves on fire safely. In winter, we made snowballs using an endothermic reaction to make us feel like it might snow... it didn't. We had some failed experiments too like trying to make rock candy. It is way harder than it looks. We watched some shows like the mission around the moon on the Artemis 2 spaceship and learned how it was produced and learned lots of new things. My personal favourite experiment is when we lit our hands on fire and making elephant toothpaste in an exothermic reaction. During science week we organised the exploration dome for First Years, we looked at space and how the earth works.

Over the year, science club has been really fun and it is highly recommended.





First Year students also got the full planetarium experience including the potential threat of an asteroid impact, meteor showers and they learned why Pluto is categorised as a dwarf planet!



Our First years got science week off to a great start with some great creativity and collaboration on show as they took on the egg drop challenge. The students had to design a device using household items to survive a 3m drop. Two eggs lived to tell the tale!



Fifth and Sixth years agricultural science and biology students were given presentations and workshops from a team of local scientists from Teagasc, Nore Vision and the Environmental Protection Agency. Many thanks to Deirdre Glynn and her team for taking time out to facilitate.



First year students were treated to a very insightful talk by SETU lecturer and elite sports expert Bruce Wardrop as part of the Kilkenny science festival held in Kilkenny castle. The talk focused on the variety of different body types of elite athletes in different sport disciplines.

Religion

SENIOR RELIGION TRIP TO LIBRARY

Our Sixth Year exam Religion class visited the fantastic Mayfair Library earlier this year to complete some opening research for their Leaving Cert project. The lads have to choose from four titles as part of their fieldwork. Thanks to all the staff in Mayfair Library who were very helpful to the lads in finding their way around! A brilliant resource to have on our doorstep.

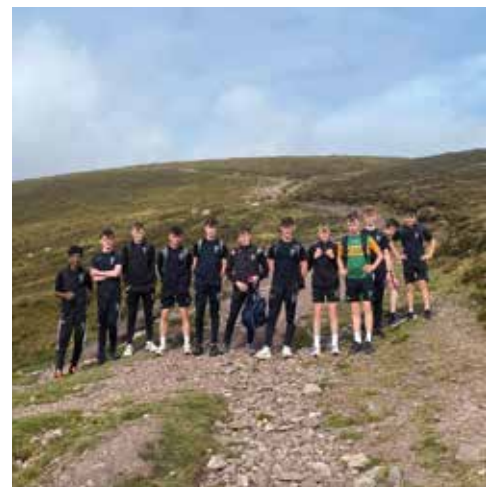


BISHOP COLL VISIT

Bishop Niall Coll did a Q&A with our Leaving Cert Religion students. The students are required to carry out a research and fieldwork investigation which contributes to their Leaving Cert mark. Bishop Niall answered a range of questions covering a number of different topics.



Our TY Experience



SLIEVENAMON

by Tom Duggan and David Waldron

In our opinion, TY has been a great overall experience and something that you should definitely do. The most important thing in TY is to make sure you are always doing something. The more you get involved, the better the experience is for you, and the time flies.

The most unforgettable trips for us have definitely been our trip to Barcelona, skiing, and the Ploughing Championship at the start of the year, and we're looking forward to Delphi at the end of May.

During the year, we completed four weeks of work experience in different areas. These placements have been a great insight into the working world and have helped us make decisions about what subjects we want to pick for the Leaving Cert, as well as what types of jobs we'd like in the future.

There were lots of in-school activities to keep us busy throughout the year, such as a soccer blitz in the Watershed and many interesting talks from people all over Ireland. These talks were given by people from all backgrounds, and they provided us

with valuable information on topics we knew nothing about.

This year, a new school tracksuit was introduced for TYs. It included a t-shirt, trousers, shorts, and the school half-zip. It was worn on days when we had PE and during school activities. It has been a great addition and something we think should be introduced to the other years in the school.

Overall, TY has been our favourite year throughout our time in St Kieran's. It has been a year where we have made so many memories and tried out things we had never done before.

TY SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES





LOCAL HISTORY TRIP

SKIING

by John Keher

This year as a part of our TY curriculum, we went skiing in Dublin on the man-made slopes at the Ski Club of Ireland. We started the trip by learning the basics of skiing with our instructors; they taught us the starting position, how to turn by pressing down hard on one ski and how to stop using the snowplough method. After 1 hour of lessons we were allowed go down the smaller slopes for an hour which was great fun and gradually we were allowed higher and higher with and without the batons. We finished off the day by stopping for some food, which rounded off a very fun day making it one of my favourite trips this year.

BARCELONA

by Joe Nolan

By far my favourite trip this year was Barcelona where we started by getting a bus at 3am from St Kieran's College to the airport where we checked in for our flight at 7:15am, we then boarded the plane and found our seats and after a short 2 hour flight we landed in Barcelona. Before we left we got our bags from the conveyer belt and headed to the buses, our first stop was RCD Espanyol Stadium, where we got to see the conference room, the dressing rooms and even got to see the pitch. After that we stopped in a shopping centre to get some food and look around before heading to check in at the Cambrils Resort, where we got to share a room with 3 other friends. The following day we woke up very



PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

TY TRIP TO BARCELONA



early and ate breakfast at the resort, before getting the bus to Tarragona to help out in a crime scene investigation with the CSI team which was one of my favourite activities. After that, we headed to the shopping centre to get food and look around a bit more, we then headed back to the hotel where we got bikes and cycled along the coastline to Salou taking in the beautiful views of the beach.

When we got back at around 5pm we were given free time to play basketball, soccer and all the other sports that they had available. The highlight of the night was the teacher's vs student basketball match and the soccer tournaments that went on between other schools. We woke up again the next morning around 8 o'clock and had breakfast. We then got on a bus to PortaVentura Theme park, where we spent the whole day going on rides and playing games. On the final day we woke up very early and went on a cable cart across Barcelona and we were able to see the beautiful views of the city, and to finish off our trip we went to the Science Museum and saw loads of cool attractions. We then got a coach back to the airport and flew home to Ireland where we got a bus from Dublin airport back to Saint Kieran's College. Overall, I really enjoyed the trip and I made great memories with my friends.

TY MINI MED PROGRAMME 2026

by Lorcan Cummins

The TY Mini Med programme ran from the 17th to the 19th of February. It was a lottery for which two students would be chosen to represent the school. We were asked in November to enter our names if we wanted to take part in the programme. Myself and Mark O'Connell were picked by chance to take part.

The programme had quite an early start in the morning at about 8 o'clock for each of the three days. The first day was held in the RCSI campus in the University Hospital of Waterford. We had lectures on the first day from specialties such as General Surgery, Ophthalmology, Cardiology, Urology, Emergency Medicine, Paediatrics and finally a talk with medicine students about how to get into doing medicine.



JUMP ZONE



LITTER PICKING

Food was provided, throughout the day for us, which was very nice in between every lecture. I found the talks with the medicine students especially interesting as it really gave me an insight into how many ways you can get into medicine.

The second day was in SETU Waterford. For the first 4 hours we got talks from those in General Practice, Psychiatry, Radiology and a very eye-opening talk with Professor Donal O'Shea on "The Fats of Life". After lunch, we then had practical sessions; we were split into random groups of around 15 people, we learned things like CPR, first aid, taking blood, stitching, delivering children, researching symptoms, clinical skills and surgery disciplines. This was a very enjoyable part of the experience as it is useful in real life scenarios, and was great fun to do in a group.

The third and final day was in SETU Waterford again, we started off with completing the last of the practical sessions that we hadn't done the day before. We then got our final lectures in oncology, orthopaedics, and finally a great lecture from Professor Niall Moyna on how lifestyle can impact our health. We then had prize-giving for those who had the best research done in the research session during the practical sessions on Wednesday and Thursday.

I really found the TY Mini Med Programme to be a very worthwhile experience to take part in. For anyone considering doing medicine or science in the future, I would strongly advise them to put their name forward for this opportunity, as it really helps you to see what part of medicine would suit you and how studying medicine in life works.

Even if you don't want to do medicine, the course gave me an insight as to how our hospitals and healthcare work in Ireland. It was a real highlight for me in TY and I hope that the next group of students to do it will enjoy it as much as Mark and I did.

ACROSS THE BARRICADES - OUR TY DRAMA JOURNEY

Contributed to by the TY drama group - Sam Kealy, Lorcan Cummins, Owen Walsh, Cameron Beaton, Billy Langton, Mark O'Connell, Kevin Stanley, Paddy Duggan, Tommy Duggan,



SETU TRIP



UL TRIP



Seán Henriques, Conor Hickey, David Waldron, Billy Heffernan and Jonathan Kingston.

The audition process

Taking part in the Transition Year drama has been my favourite part of the year so far, and I have made many memories while taking part in it. The auditions involved reading a piece adapted from *Across the Barricades*, where we had to choose between reading one of two character's lines. To prepare for the audition some of us watched *Derry Girls* to practice the accent and to try and get it just right. On the day of auditions we were called up one by one to the study hall where Ms Brennan and Ms McElwee were waiting to see us perform. We did the best we could in the audition, all of us made a few mistakes but that's part of it! A few days later, we were delighted to see that our work and preparation had paid off, with our names on the list of people chosen to partake in the drama sent out. Of course the fifteen students who made the cut were exceedingly happy and excited for what lay ahead and perhaps a little bit surprised that they made it. Little did we know this was just the beginning of what would be an amazing year!

Drama sessions - the early days

For the first term on Thursdays, working with Ms McElwee and Ms Brennan in the canteen, we engaged with drama activities including charades, mime, story telling and we took part in acting challenges to get used to performing in front of each other. It was awkward and embarrassing at first to try and perform



TY DRAMA - ACROSS THE BARRICADES

in front of others but we quickly got used to it and it helped us to get settled in and to build confidence in our public speaking skills. In October, The St Kieran's College drama group attended a show called 'Fiddler on the Roof' a musical that St Kieran's College had performed previously. We were brought shopping in Dundrum before it as a treat before our show commenced at 2.30pm. The show was incredible and very interesting with powerful performances. It was truly magical, we really got a sense of what a production would look like, the lights, the smoke, the sound effects and the actors were really in tune with the play.

Linking with Loreto

When the day came where we finally got to meet the Loreto girls that we were going to be spending the next few months working with, we were all very excited! We spent some time getting to know each other, thanks to icebreakers and acting exercises. By the end of the first meeting we had high hopes for the upcoming show. We were told about the drama 'Across The Barricades', a novel written by Joan Lingard and adapted for stage by Edinburgh based playwright, David Ian Neville. Thankfully, everyone was comfortable working with each other thanks to our preparation. We did some script reads before auditioning for individual parts. We then began auditioning for parts with our teachers and drama director Sarah Brennan. We were all thrilled when roles were announced as we all had a part to play on stage and behind the scenes. Later in the year we were brought to see the film '71 in the cinema, it was set in during the Troubles and helped to expose us a little more to life in Belfast at the time and the daily hardships people from all communities faced.

Watergate Week

Show week finally arrived mid-March. Off we went to the theatre with our props and costumes at the ready. A thanks must be given to Mr Tomkins and Ms Walsh for their work in helping to create murals and to Mark O Connell and Billy Langton for their outstanding drawing and painting skills! Also, the soldiers were able to borrow authentic army uniforms from James Stephens Barracks as costumes that week which was greatly appreciated. The main cast



TY DRAMA - ACROSS THE BARRICADES



TY FUNDRAISING

were given mics by the sound engineer in the Watergate who worked with us. The week was exciting and really full on as we would enter The Watergate at 11am and wouldn't be out until late at night. On March 12th we held our first dress rehearsal for the First Years of St Kieran's and Loreto. This gave us a wonderful opportunity to truly present our show in front of an audience. We were running through lines together as we sat in the dressing room, and checking our microphones. When the time for the first scene came, we all managed to keep our composure, not letting the stress of performing in front of so many people get in our heads. The evening shows blew our minds, it was an incredible feeling to perform live what we had prepared. We will always remember how incredible the audiences were always clapping after every scene!

When the time came to take our final bow, we all agreed to hold hands as we stood in front of the audience. We stood together, proud of what we had managed to accomplish with one another. This story of division had managed to bring us all closer together. We all speak fondly of our time together and recommend any future TYs to break out of their comfort zone and to audition for it in future!

Full cast ready for their performances in The Watergate Theatre!

LOURDES

by Conor Carroll

My journey so far in preparation for the Ossory Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes has been both exciting and rewarding. As a Transition Year student in St Kieran's College, I feel very fortunate to have been given this opportunity to represent my school and diocese.

Back in September, Mr Brennan first introduced us to the idea of the pilgrimage. He gave us an overview of what the trip would involve, and there was a great sense of interest and enthusiasm among the students. We were then asked to complete application forms, explaining why we felt we would be suitable representatives for the pilgrimage. I put a lot of thought into my application, hoping I would be selected.

I was delighted when I found out

CASTLECOMER DISCOVERY PARK





YSI

that I had been chosen, along with Shane Comerford, Aden Farrell, Sam Kealy and Sam McAviney, to take part in the pilgrimage. Since then, the journey has really begun.

Fundraising has been a major part of our preparation. At parent-teacher meetings, we provided teas and coffees for parents, who very generously supported us with donations. During Catholic Schools Week, we organised a quiz, which was a great success and helped raise further funds.

We also attended four preparation meetings in March and April in the Chapter House at St Mary's Cathedral. These days brought together students from schools across the diocese. I really enjoyed these gatherings, as they gave us the chance to meet new people, take part in fun activities, and begin to understand the spirit and purpose of the pilgrimage.

More recently, we organised additional fundraisers in the school. On Friday 24th April, we held a bake



UCC TRIP

sale where we brought in homemade goods to sell. The weather was unusually warm, so we also bought ice creams and sold them at a profit, which proved very popular. On Friday 1st May, we organised a jersey day for 1st, 2nd, and Third Years. Students were asked to donate €2 to wear their favourite jersey, and we also held a jersey swap, where students could bring in an extra jersey in good condition and sell it for €1.

Overall, the journey so far has been full of preparation, teamwork, and generosity from our school community. I am really looking forward to the pilgrimage from Monday 25th May to Saturday 30th May, where we will spend five nights in Lourdes. I am excited to experience everything the pilgrimage has to offer and to represent my school and diocese to the best of my ability.

GAA FUTURE LEADERS

The GAA Future Leaders Transition Year Programme is a cross-curricular programme comprising Performance Analysis, Nutrition, Coaching and Refereeing modules amongst some designed to encourage maturity, initiative, responsibility and leadership skills in pupils. Our TY students have organised and run both on-field and off-field events for our First Year students which was very worthwhile for all involved. Experiences include organising events, running hurling training and healthy eating presentations to First Year students.

FADÓ, FADÓ SPARKING MEMORIES AWARD CEREMONY

Congratulations to our TYs who swept the boards at the Fadó, Fadó Sparking Memories Award Ceremony recently at the Mayfair Library, Kilkenny. Well done to the Heritage & Horizons teachers also.



GAA Future Leader students delivering a health eating workshop.



GAA Future Leaders students visiting UPMC Nowlan Park.



Kilkenny GAA referee David Hughes giving an insight into Refereeing GAA games today.

GAA FUTURE LEADERS



LAW DAY

Guidance and Counselling Department 2025-2026

Mr Brian Dowling and Ms Eadaoin Maher

The Guidance Department delivered a comprehensive programme of career education and guidance to Senior Cycle students throughout the 2025–2026 academic year. A key element of this programme was the organisation of a wide range of guest speaker presentations, providing students with valuable insights into third-level pathways, career opportunities, and industry expectations.

The following presentations were delivered during the year:

- University of Limerick – Business
- University College Cork – Law and Business
- UCD Business School
- Physiotherapy
- Studying in Europe
- Teaching as a Career
- South East Technological University – Agriculture
- Shannon College of Hotel Management
- Engineering
- Psychology
- University College Dublin
- Ulster University
- UCC – Quercus Scholarships
- Maynooth University
- Dublin City University
- Building Surveying and Architecture
- Munster Technological University – Construction Management and Quantity Surveying
- Sports Scholarships – Maynooth University
- Defence Forces

Transition Year students participated in a number of structured guidance-related activities. These included visits to South East Technological University (Waterford Campus), University College Cork, and the University of Limerick, allowing students to experience campus life and explore course options.

All Transition Year students completed four weeks of work experience and undertook a Career Investigation project, supporting the development of their self-awareness, career research skills, and decision-

making abilities.

The Careers Fair, which was held in November, was a significant success. The event welcomed representatives from a wide range of higher education institutions, as well as local professionals from the Kilkenny area. This provided students with meaningful opportunities to engage directly with colleges and industry practitioners.

We extend our best wishes to all Sixth Year students as they prepare for the Leaving Certificate examinations and their future careers.



Open Night 2025



First Year



1A - Back row l to r: Bradley Rychert, Evan Bolger, James Butler, JJ Fogarty. Fourth row: Keagan Hayes, Miracle Ibe, Senan Walsh, Edwin Tynan, Cathal O'Brien. Third row: Morris Oloya, Jack Kiely, Shwonak Mondol, Páidí Tierney, Conor Byrne, James Heafey. Second row: Evan Cody, Noah Power, Freddie Langton, Darragh Staunton, Robbie Geoghegan, Krystian Kuzniewski, Rohit Praveen. Front row: Raiens Tihomirovs, Cormac Farrell, Cathal Farrelly, Fabian Bogusz, Tomás Hickey.



1B - Back row l to r: Charlie Costigan-Meaney, Harry Duggan, Henry Byrne, Henry Doyle, Divine Fangha, Iarla Carroll. Third row: Darragh Fitzgerald, Matthew Kealy, Danny Connolly, Art Cowhig, James Foley, Jack Walsh. Second row: Shay McKenna, Ollie Cummins, Eanna Blanchfield, James Smith, Mark Healy, Lochie McCarthy, Jim Madigan. Front row: Coinneach Maher, Danny Smith, Shane Cassin, Ollie Medlar, Tommy Moloney, Jack Minogue, Dáire Walsh.



1C - Back row l to r: Finlay Drennan, Oskar Wtulich, Ben Hillman. Fourth row: Liam Crowley, Ben O'Brien, TJ Hurley, Freddie Moriarty, Luke English, Cónal Kelly. Third row: Aidan Butler, Alfie Marlborough, Tommy Ryle, Jayden Halligan, Páidí Beagan, Nathan Houston, Blake Doyle. Second row: Darragh Doyle, Aidan O'Shea, Pearse Tobin, Evan Wall, Odhran Smith, Hrimann Jalali, Rhys Doyle. Front row: MJ Burke, Tom Cahill, James Aylward, Odhran Shefflin, James O'Leary, Ruben Calvo-Lydon, Danny Holohan.



1D - Back row l to r: John McCormack, Levi Wise Barry, Bartek Mlynarski, Alfie Dalton Mockler, Rayan Hague. Third row: Luke Peters, Darragh O'Sullivan, Mícheál Luttrell, Billie Butler, Cathal Comerford, Kyle Humphries. Second row: Tom Dalton, Todd Lawlor, Eddie Phelan, Daniel Ryan, Charlie Holden, Peter Grimley, Harry Nolan, Des O'Connell. Front row: Evan Mooney, Ben O'Rourke, Oscar Doyle, James Rohan, Charlie Carter, Jake Dumecz, Harry Moloney, Conor Parsons, Donnacha O'Flaherty.



1E - Back row l to r: Ed Mulrooney, James Tierney, Leon Delaney, Ollie Morrissey, Girven Cleere. Third row: Fabian Miloch, Patrick Breen, Cian Bergin, Ollie Ryall, Finn Walsh, Seán Hoyne, Fiachra Drennan. Second row: Elliott Morrissey, Darragh O'Neill, Conor Dermody, Cillian Phelan, Rian Mullally, Arseni Zorin, Andrew Phelan, Finn Kelly. Front row; Daniel Foley, James Dooley, Muiris Carey, Eoghan O'Connor, Ollie Wall, Conor Hoyne, Padhraic Dermody, Zach Carroll.

Second Year



2A - Back row l to r: Tyrese Okorafor, Fiach Crowley, Daithi Egan, Mark Byrne, Ben Dooley, David Carroll, Aidan Sweeney, Imad Rahman Miah, Julian Pawlowski. Second row: Conor Gleeson, Michael Dermody, Charlie Shore, Jamie Kavanagh, James Foley, James Hogan, Daniel Delaney, Conor Muldowney, Joshua Barcoe. Front row: Sean Donoghue, Daniel Comerford, Aidan Corrigan, Daniel Funcheon, Sean Byrne, Darragh Morrissey, Mikey Hennessy.



2B - Back row l to r: Landon Ryan, Jack O'Neill, Sean Dooley, Dorian Bedron, James Rochford. Third row: Rian Maher, Max Egan, Harry Brennan, Donie Cahill, Cathal Kelly, Jack Darcy. Second row: Paddy Larkin, Conor Holohan, Harry Dillon, David Carroll, Jack Andrews, Tom Hoyne, John McGuire, Ashton Maher. Front row: Ultan Hanrahan, Dan O'Keeffe, David Lanigan, Padraig Treacy, Harry Vaughan, Miceal trant, Eanna Costello, Eoghan Grant, Jared Lynch.



2C - Back row l to r: Sam Woodcock, Ronan Major, Patrick Brennan, Michael Kennedy, Conor Knox, Yehor Ahalakov. Third row: Charlie Mulcahy, Dominic Phelan, Eanna Dunphy, Alex Zraiqat, Darragh Kavanagh, Ryan Carroll, Sam Byrne. Second row; Tony McGorrian, Fionn Grogan, John Hawe, Sean Staunton, Tom O'Donovan, Harry Concannon, Danny Greene. Front row: JJ Brennan, Robbie Brett, Ryan Dwyer, Ryan Spelman, Noah Flynn, MJ Carroll, Zack Hennessy.



2D - Back row l to r: Joe Hanrahan, Ben Quigley, Dara Kavanagh, Paddy Raftice, Will Vaughan, Cillian Murray, Peter Quinn. Third row: Mark Phelan, Jack Lyng, Milo Ahern, Reuben Morrissey, Joe Duggan, Aaron Carrigan, Louie Kelly Doyle, Brian Lawlor. Second row: Rory Phelan, Tadhg Glennon, Cillian Murphy, Ger Cody, John Guerin, Conor Morrissey, Will O'Rourke, Dara O'Farrell. Front row: Josh Pratt, David Morrisson, OJ Tierney Le-Roux, Jimmy Grant, Liam Luby, James McDonald, Conor Cody.



2E - Back row l to r: Michael Hogan, Alex Hickey, Ardagh O'Shea, Barry O'Connell, Jack Doyle. Third row: Ben Walshe, Callum Robinson, Rory Treacy, Luke Dermody, Cian Donohoe, Nicholas Downey, Patrick Dowling, Danny Maher. Second row: Billy O'Dwyer, Tadhg Power, Billy Kennedy, Caelan Morrissey, Michael Kirwan, Odhran Murphy, Ruadhan McGuinness, Seamus Costelloe. Front row: Padhraig Ryan, James Keating, Mikey Ryan, Hugh Leacy, Sean Kenny, Daragh O'Callaghan, Sean Millea, Sadid Rahman.

Third Year



3A - Back row l to r: Paddy O Keeffe, Sam Norton, Tadhg Leahy, Owen Flanagan, Robby Lodge, Tymur Sinchukov. Third row: Finlay Beaton, Adam Phelan, Tadhg Kennedy, David Timmins, Tom Lawler, Joe Ryan, Sam Dunne Donnelly. Second row: Shay Molloy, Daniel McCullagh, Darragh Carroll, Jack Cantwell, Oisín Fogarty, Odhrán Henderson, Danny Reade. Front row: Harry Butler, Jim Clune, Adam Cullen, Darragh McDermott, Cormac Phelan, Tommy Butler, Aaron Blackmore.



3B - Back row l to r: Henry Phelan, Darragh McCormack, Micheal O'Keeffe, Harry O'Brien, Patrick Dermody. Fourth row: Sean Corcoran, Simon Kolodziej, Ned Forristal, Liam Corcoran, Andrew Ryan. Third row: Jake Green, Shane Hogan, Daniel Holohan White, James Daly, Tommy Dowling, Conor Murphy. Second row: Micheal Hurley, Cathal Bennett, Daniel O'Brien, Milosz Pronobis, Conor Walsh, Fionn Barry. Front row: Mikolaj Sliwinski, John Paul Bergin, Ryan Shelly, Connell Tobin, Oliver Butler, Jack Gamble, Cathal Malone. Absent: Rian Flynn.



3C - Back row l to r: Yevhen Zavarzin, Hugo Carroll, Canice Power, James O'Connor, Conor Hanlon, Eoin Philpott. Third row: Tommy Walsh, James Travers, David Blanchfield, Billy Ronan, Ben Fitzgerald, Ciaran Gibbons, Fionn Doyle. Second row: Paddy Leverrier, Gerard Delaney, Billy Dalton Mockler, Niall Foley, Cormac Renolds, Ronan Griffin, Tom Butler, James Leverrier. Front row: Alex Leverrier, Fionn Dunne, Keilan Egan, Niall Cody, Cillian Pollard, James Tallis, Tomas Curran. Absent: Gearoid Farrell, John Nolan.



3D - Back row l to r: Dylan Kiely, Cathal Dooley, David Nolan, Bobby Aylward, Charlie Teehan, Liam Treacy. Third row: Jack J Ryan, Jonah Suric, Padraig Dolan, Rory Parley, Paddy McCarthy, Glenn Ryan, Eoghan O Farrell. Second row: Leon Purcell , MJ Buggy, Sean Keane, Eoghan McCorry, Michael Brennan, Conor P Murphy. Front row: Tadhg Buckley, Dominic Figan , Calum Owens, David Bourke, Dylan Culleton, James Parsons, Jakub Wozniak.



3E - Back row l to r: Ruarc Shefflin, Darragh Maher, Jack Dermody, Conor Egan, Harry Canavan. Third row: Conor O'Hara, Hamish Carey, Jack O'Grady, Micheal Beagan, Harry Thomas. Second row; Micheal Langton, Neil Leahy, Rory Quigley, Ruairi McNally, Oisín Murphy. Front row: Micheal Murphy, Charlie Mccluskey, Cody Owens, Aidan Dowling, Lory Hogan, Shay Fitzgerald.

Transition Year



TYA - Back row l to r: Danny O'Neill, Harry Donoghue, Sean Morrissey, Sean Norton. Third row: Adam Staunton, Cathal Cahill, Chris Hayes, Shane Comerford, Tomas Grogan, Luke Kealy, Conor Griffin. Second row: Paul Millea, James O'Brien, Conor Carroll, Tomás McBride, James Tierney, Jamie Hayes, Seán Rooney. Front row: Darragh Cahill, Andrew Forristal, Tiernan O'Brien, Oisín Maher, Max Edwards, Krystian Bogusz, Mamadi Batchilly. Missing from photo: Dylan Drennan, Donnacha Grant, Conor Manogue, David Walton.



TYB - Back row l to r: James Butler, Kennedy Moni Ali, Jacob Mich, Aden Farrell, Kyran Meany, Scott O'Shea. Third row: Sean Henriques, James Lyons, Tom Duggan, Billy Langton, Mikey Dorney, Eoin Kelly. Second row: Josh Butler, Dan Lawlor, David Waldron, Martin Martins, Kevin Stanley, Bríon Ryan. Front row: Matthew Bowe, Paul O'Rourke, Joshua Malone, Thahmid Rahman Molla, Joe Nolan, Jonathan Kingston.



TYC - Back row l to r: Liam Farrell, Sean Kavanagh, Mattie Corr, Bríon Walsh, James Moore, John Brennan. Third row: Sean Gannon, Lorcan Cummins, John Keher, Darragh Walsh, Shane Doyle, Andrew Dillon, Jack Renehan. Second row: Andrew Browne, Cameron Beaton, Dara Donohoe, Oisín Ryan, Jim Carrigan, Harry Walsh. Front row: Dylan Brennan, Aaron McCormack, Mikey O'Brien, Harry Egan, Harry Simpson, Tommy Madigan, Billy Heffernan. Missing from photo: Robert Sheehan, AJ Mackey, Joe Hayes, Cillian Murphy.



TYD - Back row l to r: Eoghan O'Connell, Tommy Duggan, Rory Rhatigan, Paddy Duggan. Fourth row: Shane O'Dwyer, Henry Shefflin, Charlie Kavanagh, Conor Hickey, Hugh Byrne. Third row: Charlie Ryan, Cian Dalton, Martin Wall, Mark O'Connell, Jack Bolger, Sam Lawlor. Second row: Jack Stapleton, Charlie Vaughan, David Martins Pereira, Jack McShane, Oran McKenna, Jack Donnelly. Front row: James Slattery, Sam McAviney, Nathan McMahan, Max Corrway, Dara Barut. Missing from photo: Charlie Fogarty, Donnacha Foley, Seth Lawlor, Luka Suric.



TYE - Back row l to r: Luke Cummins, Philip Lynch, Noah Wall, Sam Kelly, Jamie Walsh, Richie Healy. Third row: Owen Walsh, Aaron Okonkwo, Ben Raggett, Sam Kealy, Sam Cummins, Steve Hoyne. Second row: Paddy Maguire, Jamie Holohan, Enda Cunningham, Oran Alyward, Jack Leahy, Jason Tallis, Conor Holohan. Front row: Dan Dunphy, Jovanhy (Gio) Fuentes-Kavanagh, P.J. Byrne, Kyrell Mtinsi, Sam Medlar, Lorcan Mahony, Ray Van Rooyen. Missing from photo: Ronan Hayes, Eddie Murphy, Shane Rouse, Eoin Ryan.

Fifth Year



Back row l to r: Jarlath Comerford, James Reddy, Theo Drennan, James O'Reilly, John Barton, Conor Brennan. Second row: Tommy Doyle, Rian O'Hare, Conor Marry, Harry Bay, Seán Grace, Cillian Dunphy. Front Row; Jack Mulcahy, Robert Brennan, Tom Glennon, Ben Leehy, Richard Forristal, Cormac Neary.



Back row l to r: Paddy Purcell, Jack O'Reilly, Nicky Healy, Ben Nevin. Third row: Seán Nulty, Conor Coone, Seán Carroll, Anan Jalali, Paddy Cuddihy. Second row: Eoin O'Gorman, Jonathan Kennedy, Ned Spelman, Eoin Healy. Front row: Andrew Lawless, Robert Butler, Roman Connolly, Rory Glynn, Cónal Doyle.



Back row l to r: Aidan O'Connell, Isaac Okorafor, Paul Kirwan, David Kolodziej, Gearóid O'Shea. Second row: Fionn Blanchfield, Alex Canavan, Daire Hogan, Tomás Carroll, Seán O'Mahony, Andrew Holohan. Front row: Tom Doheny, Cian O'Connor, Ryan Minogue Lee, Josh Varley, Jake O'Neill, Eldon Sheridan.



Back row l to r: Ben McEvoy, Eoin McDermott, Orí Phelan, Eoin McCormack, Jayden Ryan, Hugh Healy. Front row: Alex Rochford, Ciabhán Maher, Chris Phelan, Darragh Roche, Michéal O'Mahony, Augustas Milasius, Harry McEvoy.



Back row l to r: Alex Dooley, Antoni Pawlowski, Dan Rohan, Will O'Dwyer, Jayden Maher, Oliver Phelan. Second row: Michael Barron, Seán Fitzmaurice, Darragh Drennan, James Gannon, Cillian O'Neill, James Ryan. Front row: Tom Challoner, Cian Dermody, Patrick Murphy, Cillian Maher, Cormac Monahan.



Back row l to r: Cillian McElwee, Michael Tynan, Jack Rhatigan. Third row: Dan Carroll, Oisín Barry, James Larkin, Ruairí Hanrahan, Matthew Duggan, Mark O'Neill. Second row: Matthew Phelan, Seán Curran, Keelan Lynch, Jack White, Dara O'Neill, Ben Fahey, Jacob Thekkekara. Front row: Daniel Hayes, Noah Power, Paddy Challoner, C.J Brennan, Charlie Gleeson, Adam Butler.

Sixth Year



Back row l to r: Charlie Greene, Daniel Ryan, Ronan O'Mahony, Hugh Kelly, Eoin Walpole, Louis Lawlor. Second Row: Joe Power, Rian Shefflin, Liam Keogh, Cormac Dowling, James O'Brien. Front Row: Rickard Burke, Michael O'Shea, Ivan Sony, Joseph Langton.



Back row l to r: Conor Heffernan, Cian Walsh, Tiernan Shefflin, Timothy Donohoe, Brian Healy. Second row: Dean Herbert, Ronan Hanrahan, Luke Browne, James O'Mara. Front row: TJ Comerford, Elijah Lynch, Daniel MacEaney, Cillian Bowe, Tadhg Bergin.



Back row l to r: Conor Holohan, Philip Carrigan, Joseph Butler. Third row: Ciarán Coone, Ben Drennan, Scott Hennessy. Second row: Harry Conroy, Killian Ryan, Aaron Fox, Cathal Rossiter. Front row: James Murphy, Cayden Byrne, Cormac Holden, MJ Banville, Daniel Tallis.



Back row l to r: Fionn Mahony, Bill McDermott, Paddy Savage, Stephen Walsh, Larry Phelan. Third row: Robert McEvoy, Cian Holohan-White, Conor Gibbons, Conor Dowling, Timmy Corr. Second row: Vladyslav Nevolnychenko, Jack Walsh, James Holohan, Kieran Carter, Tommy Walsh, Matthew Cahill. Front row: Yaroslav Nemyrovskiy, Harry Bourke, Tom Murphy, Liam O'Gorman, Ciarán Power, Rory Moore.



Back row l to r: Hugh Whelan, Jack Dooley, Louis Raggett. Third row: Eoin Ryan, Eoghan Cahill, Charlie Carroll, Owen Shine, David Barcoe. Second row: Sam Mackey, Conor Dillon, Cathal O'Dwyer, Conor Millea, Conor Aylward, Tom Gladney. Front row: Jake Mullen, Robbie Lynch, Tom Boyle, Euan Wall, Andrew Comerford, Cian Doherty, Ciarán Hickey.



Back row l to r: Felix Fwamba, David Travers, Diarmuid Behan, Liam O'Dwyer, Kieran Timmins, Luke Lawlor. Second row: Peter Kealy, Conor McEvoy, Nevin Benny, Cormac Leahy, James Wallace. Front row: Tadhg Byrne, Daniel Patterson, Evan Davy, Daniel Smith, Brían Hickey.

Sports Day



Jersey Swap Day

Transition Year Sustainability and GAA Future Leaders students ran a Jersey Swap event as part of Jersey Day in May with proceeds going towards the TY trip to Lourdes. There was great buy-in from the students, their parents and staff, with a Stall, Swap Area and Lucky Dip section full of donated jerseys. This was a great way a great way to recycle unwanted jerseys. Well done to all involved.



Our Chess Club



St Kierans College, Knockbeg College and Loreto Kilkenny Chess Tournament.

by Kevin Stanly, Joe Nolan, Jonathan Kingston

Our chess club has come a long way since our inception with over 40 members joining in the last couple of years. We have attended and organised a number of competitions across Leinster this year. We hosted a number of competitions for Loreto Kilkenny, Knockbeg College and Kilkenny College.

Our first away competition this year was in Knockbeg College in Carlow which was followed by a friendly tournament in Loreto Kilkenny. We rounded off our away competitions with a tournament in Kilkenny College where John Keher came 2nd.

Our greatest success this year was when we travelled to O'Loughlins for the Leinster teams competition. We had a team of 6 players who competed. A large number of schools across Leinster competed which highlighted the importance of the competition. Each player competed in 8 games, each of which was 30 mins in length. The competition was so fierce that the winner was only decided in the final game. After all the points were calculated St Kierans proved victorious.

There is plenty to look forward to in the near future, our chess club is still going strong with a lot of people turning up every Tuesday and Thursday at lunch time to play.



l-r: Matthew Phelan, Matthew Duggan, John Keher, Jack O'Neill



Badminton

This year's badminton season was a very successful one for St Kieran's College. Students travelled to the National Indoor Arena in Dublin to watch the Irish Open and also took part in a coaching session with national coaches, which was a great experience for everyone involved.

The U14 teams both reached their respective finals in the Kilkenny tournament in the Watershed, narrowly losing, which was still a fantastic achievement. Our U16 team, made up of Aden Farrell, James Tierney, Shay Molloy, Cathal Kelley and Rory Parley, also had a very successful season, showing great teamwork and determination throughout.

One of the highlights was the Kilkenny tournament, where we lost our first game to Kilkenny College but bounced back to beat Callan. Although we finished second, we qualified for the Leinster competition after winning Division 2 last year. The Leinster competition took place in Baldoyle Badminton Centre, where we reached the final in Division A, losing to a strong Templeogue team.

The U17 teams also performed well, with the A team narrowly missing out and the B team reaching the semi-finals in the Watershed.



Leinster U16 runners-up
Pictured are James Tierney, Aden Farrell, Shay Molloy and Cathal Kelly.



Kilkenny Schools Badminton 2025

Rugby

Well done to the seven St Kieran's boys who won the U18 Club Rugby Leinster Cup final (Tom Darcy Cup) in the Energia Park, Donnybrook, Dublin this April. This is the first time in Kilkenny Rugby Club history to win this competition. A great achievement by the lads.



Golf

On the 22nd of October, we participated in the Leinster Schools Competition in Kilkenny Golf Club on a sunny but chilly Autumn day. The course was in good condition, though placing rules were in place. By the end of play, we were fortunate to have two members of our team (Tom Glennon and Ben Drennan) qualify to the All Irelands on the 27th of April at Lucan Golf Club. It was a great experience for everyone involved.



Athletics



Well done to Conor Knox who was 7th in minor boys and Fiach Crowley who was 3rd in junior boys in the Leinster Combined Events Championships last October.



Three St Kieran's students were in action in the National Indoor Arena in Abbottstown in the All-Ireland and Leinster Athletics Combined Events in January. Conor Knox U15 (Second Year) was 3rd in Ireland and 2nd in Leinster. Fiach Crowley U16 (Second Year) was 7th in Ireland and 2nd in Leinster. Cathal Comerford U14 (First Year) was 6th in Ireland and 1st in Leinster.



South Leinster Schools 4x100m Relay Champions: Congrats to Kilkenny City Harriers (l-r) Fiach Crowley, Kyrell Mtinsi, Patrick Wall and Eoghan O'Farrell who won gold in the South Leinster Schools Relay Championships in April. We wish the lads well as they now prepare for the Leinsters. Many thanks to Mr Simon Reddy for organising.

Handball

Congratulations to both of our teams who competed in the 1-Wall Handball Blitz this year at St Joseph's Community Centre in Wexford Town. The boys faced strong competition from CBC Kilkenny, Castlecomer Community School, Creagh College, and Good Counsel College, making it a highly enjoyable and competitive day.

The introduction of the 1-Wall tournament this year aimed to encourage greater participation in the sport, and judging by the enthusiasm and turnout, it proved to be a great success.

A huge congratulations to our students on the O'Loughlins Féile Handball team on their outstanding achievement in winning the Division 1 Féile title in 2026. The team displayed exceptional skill, determination, and teamwork throughout the competition.

They recorded impressive victories over Tuamgraney (Clare), Castlebridge (Wexford), and Lisacul (Roscommon) on their path to the final. In a thrilling and nerve-wracking decider, they overcame Loughmacrory (Tyrone) to claim the title.

Our students consisted of captain Lory Hogan, Leon Delaney and Ollie Morrissey, who was also recognised as the Skills Winner of the tournament.

Great credit is due to their coaches, John Morrissey and Paddy Delaney, for their dedication and guidance.

This was a fantastic achievement and a proud moment for all involved.



First Year Handball Team



Well done to Shane Doyle who claimed the U16 40/20 Handball All-Ireland title and to Ollie Morrissey who claimed the U14 40/20 Handball All Ireland at the finals which were held in Croke Park in March.



Well done to Lory Hogan, Ollie Morrissey and Leon Delaney who won the Division 1 Feile Handball in Cork in April.

Pitch and Putt

Pitch and Putt - Well done to Jack McShane & Harry Concannon who both qualified for the All Ireland U16 Pitch & Putt Match Play final in Fermoy, Co. Cork last September. After a tough battle Jack McShane prevailed & was crowned the 2025 All Ireland U16 champion. Both Jack and Harry were also part of the Leinster team that beat Munster in the All Ireland Pitch & Putt Interprovincial finals in Newbridge in November.



L-r: Jack McShane, Harry Concannon.

Cross Country

Lunchtime training in the Castle Park commenced this year in September. The lunchtime run on Tuesdays and Thursdays is an incremental run which intensifies over the season in preparation for the inter-schools competitions. All students are welcome to run regardless of fitness level.

The annual Michael Brannigan Memorial was held for First Years on Friday, November 21st. A new course was designed with the upgrading of pitches taking place on the grounds. Healthy pre-match rivalry was clearly evident for the inter-class competition. The winner was James Dooley with Des O'Connell and Art Cowhig coming second and third respectively. 1D were victorious for the team prize.

Dublin City University (DCU) held an invitational cross country event on January 14th. This was the first day out for our athletes and it gave them a great opportunity to represent the school. Sam Woodcock came 5th in the junior race. Kyrell Mtinsi was crowned intermediate champion, which allowed our intermediate team to receive bronze. Conor Carroll finished a very impressive 3rd in the senior race which allowed our senior team to also receive bronze on the day.

The South Leinster School Cross Country Championship was held in The GAA Training Grounds, Fenagh, Co. Carlow on Wednesday, January 28rd. Storm Chandra had left its mark on ground conditions. St Kieran's had eight teams competing on the day. Four teams took home medals – one from each category qualified for the Leinsters. Our Minors and Intermediates were crowned regional champions with our Junior and Senior teams finishing third in their category. As well as these superb team performances, there were excellent individual displays from Kyrell Mtinsi, winning the intermediate race, Des O'Connell 4th (minor), Sam Woodcock 5th (junior) and Conor Carroll put in an excellent performance to finish 7th in the senior race.

The four Kieran's teams qualified for the Leinster Championship, which had been postponed twice due to the fact that Phoenix Park was waterlogged after the deluge of rain throughout



Intermediate - South Leinster Champions

Back row; Jack Cantwell, Tommy Butler, Jack Renehan, Jack O' Neill, Caelan Morrissey. Front row; Charlie McCluskey, Gearóid Farrell, Kyrell Mtinsi, Hugh Chaney, Cathal Malone. Missing: Paul Millea, Pdraig Dolan.



Junior Boys

Back row; Michael Kennedy, JJ Fogarty, Peter Quinn, Cathal Kelly. Middle row; David Carroll, Darragh Fitzgerald, Ger Cody, James Butler, Ewan Bolger, Sam Woodcock. Front row; Art Cowhig, Coinneach Maher, Jimmy Grant, Eoghan Grant, Daniel Comerford.



Minor Boys - South Leinster Champions

Back row; Divine Fangha, Luke O' Connor, Ed Mulrooney, Cathal Comerford. Middle row; Daire Walsh, Jake Heafy, Peter Grimley, Edwin Tynan, Iarla Carroll. Front row; Charlie Carter, Evan Mooney, James Dooley, Des O'Connell, Tom Dalton, Paudie Tierney.



Senior

l to r: Charlie Ryan, James Walshe, Luke Browne, Cormac Holden, Dan MacEaney, Conor Carroll. Missing: Ryan Minogue-Lee, Conor Gibbons.

the winter. The Leinster Championship had to relocate to Navan Adventure Centre on the 11th hour on February 27th. With Navan racecourse in the background the intermediates had a superb performance achieving bronze on the day. Kyrell Mtinsi galloped around the field, to lead from start to finish and win the intermediate race. Sam Woodcock had a superb race finishing in 8th position in the junior category and qualifies as an individual. The junior team showed how much they have improved this year, building on last years Leinster result and finishing in 4th position.

Our minor and senior athletes showed great character in a hilly, mud-filled course but unfortunately came up just short.

The All Ireland in Mallusk, Belfast on March 7th saw our intermediates and Sam Woodcock line out in the black and white hoops. In this prestigious race, Sam Woodcock displayed an outstanding performance finishing in 18th position in the junior race. The intermediate team were led home by Kyrell Mtinsi in 4th position. He was supported by Tommy Butler, Gearoid Farrell, Charlie McCluskey and Jack Renehan, which landed the team bronze. The intermediate team held onto their Leinster 3rd place podium finish in the Nationals, which is an exceptional result. Congratulations to all our runners on their remarkable achievements in the 2026 season. All our runners have left a mark for more achievements next year.



Kyrell Mtinsi



L-r: Ms C. Staunton, Des O'Connell, James Dooley, Art Cowhig, Mr P. Darmody, Mr G. Walsh.



MICHAEL BRANNIGAN RUN

Congrats to James Dooley (1st) Des O' Connell (2nd) & Art Cowhig (3rd) in the Michael Brannigan Memorial Mile Run on the grounds of the school campus in November. Well done to 1D who took the honours as the best placed class. A very enjoyable experience for all First Years who took part - great fun! Many thanks to Ms Staunton, Mr Darmody and Mr G Walsh for organising this event and for preparing all of our Cross Country teams throughout the year.



Basketball

This has been another fantastic year for basketball in St Kieran's College, building on the success of last year student participation rates have increased and the standard of basketball played has improved immensely.

Again the season started very quickly for our senior and junior teams having very little time to prepare for our opening game of the season. It was a mixed season for our U16s & U19s who unfortunately did not advance from the league stage this year even after a few excellent performances. The stand out player of the season was Harry Walsh who hit six 3 pointers in the final game of the season.

In early December trials for the 1st and Second Year basketball squads began with an abundance of students turning up to try out for both squads. After a lot of close calls both squads were picked and the season began in early January.

Considering the majority of our first year basketball team never played a competitive game of basketball before it was a very successful season. Well over twenty first years got a chance to tog out for the school all of them playing to the best of their ability and most importantly having fun in the process. Led by Robbie Geoghegan the first years won their league going undefeated but unfortunately came up short in the South East Quarter finals.

Following on from last year's success in first year our second year team had dominant victories in the league averaging over 50 points a game and over twenty players getting court time finishing top of their league advancing into the knockout stages of the South East League. Where they went on to ease through the quarters, semis and defeating a strong Wexford CBS team in the final.

At the All Ireland playoffs in Croom the second years defeated Colaiste Chiarain, Croom and St Colmans, Middleton comprehensively to secure a spot in the all Ireland Quarter finals in Ardee. Team joint captain Ben Quigley put on a display of 3 point shooting nailing five 3 pointers in one game playing extremely tough defence now allowing the opposition a chance to



First Year - Back row: Shay McKenna, Charlie Holden, Ewan Bolger, Alfie Dalton, Senan Walsh, James Foley. Second row: Evan Cody, Donnacha O'Flaherty, James Smith, James O'Leary, Andrew Smith, Sean Hoyne, Ross Blackmore, Patrick Breen. Front row: Evan Wall, Aiden Butler, Zach Carrol, Tom Dalton, Evan Mooney, Robbie Geoghegan, Cathal Fararley, Freddie Langton, Danny Holohan.



Second Year - Back row: Tyrese Okorafor, Conor Knox, Michael Hogan, Danny Maher, Barry O'Connell. Third row: Jack O'Neil, Joe Hanrahan, Julian Pawlowski, Ben Quigley, Callum Robinson, Max Egan, Joseph Murphy. Second row: Patrick Dowling, Padraig Treacy, Jack Doyle, Eanna Dunphy, Charlie Shore, Tadhg Power, Cian Donohoe. Front row: Robbie Brett, Luke Dermody, Tadhg Glennon, Con Roche, Liam Luby, Sean Kenny, Billy O'Dwyer.



U16-U19 - Back row: Owen Walsh, Yevhen Zavarzin. Middle row: Ben Quigley, Alex Dooley, Jacob Mich, Oisín Barry. Front row: Jack Doyle, Callum Robinson, Harry Walsh, Kyrell Mtinsi.

get a foot hold in either game.

After a long journey to Ardee our Second Year team faced a well coached Colaiste Colmcille from Ballyshannon in Co. Donegal in our quarter finals where they displayed a lot of grit determination in a very close nervy encounter to advance to the semi finals later that day. We got off to a flying start in the semi final against a strong physical Malahide Portmarnock ETSS side only to be pegged back in 3rd quarter and going behind entering the 4th quarter. The lead changed hands

multiple times in the closing stages of the match but the team dug deep and up stepped Ben Quigley to hit two 3 pointers from down town to help us eventually pull away claiming our spot in the Boys Junior C All Ireland Final in the National Basketball Arena, Tallaght.

The popularity of basketball continues to grow in St Kieran's College evident from the large numbers of students attending training and those who took part playing games and having fun at the sports day early in the year and on St Kieran's Day.

It is important to acknowledge the contribution our coaches Xabi and Mr Brennan have made this year. They have put in a lot of work behind the scenes organising training every Monday & Wednesday afterschool, booking venues, arranging referees and ordering buses. I would like to give a special mention to all the TY students and senior players who supervised first year students walking over to and back from O'Loughlins and doing the scoreboard for games.



Swimming

It was a great year for the College in both Junior and Senior swimming. At the Leinster Schools Gala the Junior team, consisting of Ruben Calvo Lydon, Des O'Connell, Conor Byrne and Sam Woodcock, picked up a bronze medal in both the Freestyle and IM relay and placed 3rd overall. The Senior team, starring Dan Rohan, Paddy Cuddihy, Sam Kealy and Conor Carroll, got a silver medal in the freestyle relay and brought home the trophy as the overall top performing senior team, beating schools from all over the Province. Paddy also won gold in the senior 100m and 400m freestyle, which earned him a spot on the Leinster InterPros team that went on to win overall, where he competed against swimmers from all over the country and won Bronze in the 100m freestyle. Dan and Paddy also represented Leinster in Wycombe, London in March as part of the Leinster Development squad, where Dan picked up a Bronze medal in the Junior 400m freestyle



Junior Swim Team
l-r: Ruben Calvo Lydon, Sam Woodcock, Conor Byrne, Des O'Connell.



Senior Swim Team
l-r: Conor Carroll, Paddy Cuddihy, Dan Rohan, Sam Kealy.



Paddy Cuddihy and Dan Rohan in Wycombe for the Leinster Development Squad.



Paddy Cuddihy



Dan Rohan



Well done to St Kieran's boys at the Junior Surf Lifesaving Championship in Kilkee, Co Clare last August. Tube Rescue Relay Silver - Paddy Cuddihy, Sam McAviney, Harry O'Brien and David Carroll.

Individual Achievements

BADMINTON



Oisín Murphy and Shay Molloy - Well done to Third year students Oisín Murphy and Shay Molloy who won an U17 Leinster badminton title in Carlow last January. Well done lads.

KILKENNY MEDIEVAL MILE



Kyrrell Mtinsi - Well done to Transition Year student Kyrrell Mtinsi (3rd) - 04:39 a very impressive performance at the annual Kilkenny Medieval Mile Run on the streets of Kilkenny last December.

BOXING



John Hawe - Well done to second year student John Hawe who won the Leinster Boxing Final over the Easter break. John has now qualified for the All Ireland Final representing Marble City Boxing Club. Well done John.



Jack Cantwell - Well done to Third year student Jack Cantwell who won the Athy Box Cup at 60Kg last December, a wonderful achievement.

EUROPEAN CANOEING CHAMPIONSHIPS U18



Rian O'Hare - Well done to Fifth Year student Rian O'Hare who was selected as the youngest member of the Ireland U18 Junior Slalom Kayak team - representing his country at The European Championships in Slovenia last summer.

SWIMMING



Past pupil Robbie English was part of the Irish team that secured the bronze medal in the 4 x 100 Medley Relay in the European Down Syndrome Swimming Championships last October. Well done Robbie. Pictured l-r: Niall Molloy (head coach) with Robbie English (Kilkenny) David Hogg and Kevin Kennedy (Westmeath) and Eoghan Ashe (Kildare).

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2025 MARATHON



Very proud of our past pupil and Kilkenny City Harriers man Peter Lynch who represented Ireland in the men's marathon at the World Championships in Tokyo last September - a massively impressive run by Peter in very challenging conditions. Peter Lynch followed up his impressive run in Tokyo by finishing in 9th place in the fastest marathon ever run in London in April in a time of 2:06:08 - a new Irish marathon record. A phenomenal achievement Peter - massive congratulations!

BIKING



Second year student Dorian Bedron who travelled to Bilbao in Spain to compete in the SuperEnduro FIM World Championship. The top 20 racers in the world will be competing. Dorian goes up to Newry every weekend to train so it is great to see his commitment being rewarded.

Harry Byrne Memorial



Harry's parents Annette and Fergal present the Harry Byrne Memorial Cup to Second Year student Odhran Murphy - player of the tournament.



Mr Finan presented the medals to the winning team.



Fr Dermot presented a St Kieran's Jersey to Harry's brother Sam.



The Gowran lads - due to pitch development in St Kieran's we were delighted to be able to host the tournament this year in Harry's club Gowran GAA.

Interfirms

Well done to our Interfirms team who kept the hurling flag flying this year, with some vintage and memorable performances in the famous Black and White strip by some of our staff. No final but many laughs and I'm sure all are looking forward to next year already!



Soccer

FIRST YEAR SOCCER

The first year soccer team journey began with over one hundred and ten students trialing, which was an amazing turnout that left the coaches with a very difficult job of picking a panel of thirty two. Throughout the Carlow-Kilkenny league, the panel were successful in two round games against Borris College, and CBS Kilkenny.

These wins brought them to the knockout stages of the league where they faced Tyndall College in a home game. The boys put on an exhibition, and secured themselves a place in the final, where they would face Borris College for the second time in the competition.

On the day of the final, the full panel togged out and played a vital role in the teams success between playing and supporting. In a battle until the final whistle, the boys showed great determination and teamwork. They stayed focused and took their chances when they came. Their excellent performance led to a win and a league title. Captain MJ Burke accepted the cup and medals on behalf of the panel.

Overall, it was a strong season for the group. The players worked hard throughout, and their effort was rewarded with success at the end.



First Year Soccer - Carlow/Kilkenny Div 1 Champions

Back row: (l-r) Todd Lawlor, Liam Crowley, Edwin Tyan, Conal Kelly, TJ Hurley, Nathan Houston, Odhran Smith. Third row: Des O'Connell, Tom Cahill, Charlie Carter, Conor Hoyne, James Smith, Ben O'Brien, Tommy Moloney, Darragh Fitzgerald. Second row: Tom Dalton, Ben O'Rourke, Rory Phelan, Harry Duggan, Ollie Ryall, Charlie Holden, James Dooley, MJ Burke. Front row: James Tierney, Coinneach Maher, Harry Nolan, Harry Moloney, Jack Minogue, Elliot Morrissey, Daniel Ryan, James Foley, JJ Fogarty.

U15 SOCCER

by Daithi Egan

Our year started with a well fought 4-2 away win over Dublin side Churchtown De La Salle in the cup.

Next up was our first league game on a cold day against Borris CS, the game ended up being a back and forth game, but we ended up on the winning side in the end with a final score of 4-3.

Following this came another league game this time up against CBC Kilkenny ending in a 1-1 draw. In



U15 Soccer - Carlow/Kilkenny Div 1 Champions

Third row: Mr R. Lynch, Mark Byrne, Dara Kavanagh, Donie Cahill, Danny Greene, Mr O. Kelly. Second row: Jamie Kavanagh, Micheal Beagan, Jack Ryan, Daithi Egan, Harry Jordan. Front row: Calum Owens, Codie Owens, Reuben Morrissey, Eanna Costello, MJ Carroll, Noah Flynn. Missing: Sam Norton, Micheal Kirwan, Ben Fitzgerald, Micheal Fitzgerald, Daniel Comerford.



U17

Back row (l to r): Theo Drennan, Danny O’Neill. Third row l to r: Bríon Walsh, Paddy Purcell, Liam Farrell, Jayden Maher, Harry Egan, Séan Corcoran. Second row (l to r): Mr P O’Sullivan, Jack Ryan, Sam Norton, Liam Corcoran, Jack Mulcahy, Tom Duggan, Ms Jennie Brennan. Front row (l to r): Tadhg Leahy, Noah Power, Max Edwards, Chris Hayes (C), Tiernan O’Brien, Ben Fitzgerald, Mitchel Houston, Lorcan Mahony.

the meantime we were back into an away game in the cup against Dublin side Benildus which ended in a strong 3-1 victory, this lead us into a Leinster quarter final against a very talented Clane side who got the better of us

The year wasn’t over there as we still had a semi-final to look forward to against St Mary’s CBS. Kieran’s were by far the better team from the start and showcased their skills and talent ending in a comfortable 6-1 win. The final was against a much stronger Presentation CBS and they showed this from the start. In the end we did enough to get the win with great performances all around the pitch. Mr.Kelly, Mr.Lynch and all the players put in great effort throughout the year and were deservingly rewarded with some silverware.

U17 SCHOOL SOCCER

We started the year really strong this year with our first cup game ending in a 5 - 2 win against a really strong Old Bawn Tallaght side up in Dublin . Unfortunately our cup run came to an end shortly after an undeserved 3 - 1 loss to St Benildus College Kilmacud. Then came our first league game against Borris , we started the first half strong going in 2 - 0 up at half time but in the second half it looked like we were going to struggle as Borris got 1 back in



Soccer Captains

Chris Hayes (U17), Sam Norton (U15) and MJ Burke (First Year) are pictured together after an extremely successful year for soccer in St Kieran’s. All three captains are seen with their respective trophies after each of their teams won the Kilkenny/Carlow league’s at the three ages grades. Well done lads on a fantastic year.



U19

Back row: Louis Lawlor, Charlie Greene, Sam Mackey, Isaac Okorafor, Dean Herbert. Third row: Harry Bourke, James Walshe, Liam O'Dwyer, Hugh Kelly, James Gannon. Second row: Mr Ronan Dowling, TJ Comerford, Euan Wall, Luke Browne, Kieran Timmons, Mr Shane Byrne. Front row: Aaron Fox, Ryan Minogue-Lee, Jayden Maher, Diarmuid Behan, Tom Gladney. Missing from photo: Chris Hayes, Daniel Hayes, Daniel Tallis, Danny O'Neill, James O'Brien, Rayan Oweka.

the first 10 minutes of the second half to bring it back to 2 - 1 but we needed a win if we wanted to finish top of the group which we did end up holding on to our 2 - 1 lead so all we had to do now is beat our rivals C.B.S to finish top of the group and even better to knock them out of the group stage as well. We ended up easily beating C.B.S in a 4-0 win so we did end up finishing top of the group and knocking C.B.S out.

We then faced Tyndall College in the semi finals which we were all confident that we would get over the line and make it to the final which we did do as we won 3 - 1. We then got Presentation College, Carlow in the final. We started really slow, not creating anything and looking like we did not want to play so we ended up 1 - 0 down. We then started to get going with about 30 minutes to go creating chances and making a few challenges then we finally got one back with a great strike from Harry Egan with a lot more time left to grab a winner. We continued making more and more chances and looked like scoring again which we did thanks to Jack Ryan putting us 2 - 1 up with only about 10 minutes to go.

We defended really well until we gave a free away in the last minute and conceded from it. So we had to go play extra time, which both

teams played really well in and looked like it was going to pens until Jack Mulcahy chipped the keeper in the last few minutes to put us 3 - 2 up which showed us winning the Carlow-Kilkenny League for the first time since 2018 and an amazing way to end our season.

Thanks to Mr O' Sullivan and Ms Brennan for their hard work throughout the year.

SENIOR SOCCER

by Sam Mackey

The team, led by Mr R. Dowling and Mr Byrne took part in the Cup and Leinster League this year and produced some strong performances along the way. Our opening game saw us travel to Tyndall on a clear morning. We started strong and controlled the game throughout, with goals coming from Kieran Timmins, Diarmuid Behan, who scored twice, as we ran out convincing 7-1 winners to progress to the next round.

We then faced Adamstown CC on our home pitch in the Fairgreen on a rainy day. The difficult conditions made for a tight and physical contest, with both sides battling hard. The game remained level at the end of normal time after a great header from Chris

Hayes, but Adamstown managed to find a winner in extra time, as we were narrowly defeated 2-1, bringing our cup run to an end.

Alongside the cup, we competed in the league, beginning with a match against CBS in the Fairgreen on a clear day. After a slow start saw us go 2-0 down at halftime, we showed great determination in the second half to fight back. Diarmuid Behan got on the scoresheet as we earned a 2-2 draw.

We followed this with a hard-fought draw against Presentation Carlow in good conditions, before a strong performance against Bagenalstown secured an important win and guaranteed our place in the league final.

We faced our rivals CBS once again in the final in the Fairgreen on a calm day. It proved to be a very close and competitive game, with both sides unable to break the deadlock. The match finished 0-0 after extra time and was decided on penalties, where we were unfortunately defeated.

Kieran Timmins finished as our top goalscorer with five goals, making an important contribution throughout the season.

Massive thanks to Mr Byrne and Mr Dowling for their continued dedication and coaching throughout the year.

Football

FIRST YEAR FOOTBALL REVIEW

St Kieran's College First Year Football Team showed impressive growth across three competitive games against St Peter's College, Gorey CS, and Enniscorthy CBS. Over fifty players contributed throughout the campaign, highlighting the depth and enthusiasm within the panel. Across all fixtures, the team demonstrated outstanding resilience, hard work, effort, and determination, representing the college with pride and a strong collective spirit.

SECOND YEAR GAELIC FOOTBALL

At the start of the school year, trials began for the second year Gaelic football panel. A large number of students attended these trials after school with energy and enthusiasm to play Gaelic for their school.

Our hard-working coaches Mr Glendon, Mr Connolly and Mr Lynch who regularly gave up their time to the team throughout the season began narrowing down players to the final team, their eyes set on the rapidly upcoming season.

Our first match was against Wexford CBS, who we drew after a gruelling hard-fought match. In our next match, the team gave a comprehensive win with a sixteen point lead at the final whistle against St Peter's college, Wexford. With that we went into the south Leinster championship semi-final against Portlaoise CBS.

Unfortunately, despite a skilful and well played match, we were beaten by the stronger Portlaoise side. Despite this disappointment, our coaches were happy with our performance and improvement throughout the season.



First Year Football

Back row: Mark Healy, Senan Walsh, Harry Duggan. Fifth row: Paudie Beagan, James Tierney, Edwin Tynan, Darragh Fitzgerald, Conal Kelly, Leon Delaney. Fourth row: James O'Leary, James Foley, Oscar Doyle, Peter Grimley, Finn Walsh, Divine Fangha, Ben O'Brien. Third row: Mr E.Pollard, Lochie McCarthy, Darragh Walsh, Eanna Blanchfield, Jack Minogue, Aidan Butler, Cathal O'Brien, James Aylward. Second row: Mr S.Walsh, Tommy Moloney, James Dooley, Alfie Marlborough, Darragh O'Sullivan, Elliot Morrissey, Conor Hoyne, James Smith, Mr M. Walsh. Front row: Robbie Geoghegan, Coinneach Maher, Rory Phelan, Nathan Houston, Cathal Farrelly, Charlie Carter, Cormac Farrell, Noah Power.



Second Year Football

Back row: Sam Byrne, Dara Kavanagh, Cillian Murray, Peter Quinn, Daithi Egan, Sean Dooley, Joe Hanrahan, Yehor Ahalakov. Third row: Mr E. Glendon, Mark Byrne, Harry Brennan, Mark Phelan, Donie Cahill, Jack O'Neill, Sean Coogan, Louie Kelly Doyle, Mr M. Connolly. Second row; Jack Lyng, Micheal Kirwan, John Hawe, Ruadhan McGuinness, Darragh O'Callaghan, Jamie Kavanagh, Ger Cody, Aaron Carrigan. Front row: Mr R. Lynch, Seamus Costelloe, Ryan Spelman, MJ Carroll, Odhran Murphy, Eanna Costello, Harry Vaughan, Sean Millea.



Junior Football

Back row: Mr M. Carey, Jayden Maher, Seán Kavanagh. Third row: Mikey Carey, Charlie Teehan, James Moore, Jack Renehan, Rory Rhatigan, Mattie Corr, Mr B. Maher. Second row: Seán Corcoran, Charlie Vaughan, Conor Power, Tadhg Kennedy, Henry Shefflin (C), Seán Morrissey, Sam Medlar, Sam Norton. Front row: Paddy McCarthy, Harry Egan, Kyrell Mtinsi, Max Edwards, Dylan Brennan, Conor Holohan, Liam Corcoran.

Hurling

FIRST YEAR HURLING

The first-year hurling team has enjoyed an outstanding and highly promising season, marked by commitment, skill development, and impressive performances on the field. From the outset, this group of players demonstrated great enthusiasm for the game, embracing training sessions with energy and a strong willingness to learn.

Over the course of the year, the team made significant progress, both individually and collectively. Their hard work paid off in a series of excellent performances, most notably in their victories over CBS and Good Counsel. These wins were not only important results but also clear indicators of the team's growing confidence, teamwork, and understanding of the game.

The panel showed great resilience and determination throughout these matches, responding well to challenges and maintaining a positive attitude. Their ability to work together, support one another, and execute skills under pressure has been particularly encouraging for a team at this early stage in their hurling journey.

Qualification for the semi-final is a fantastic achievement and a testament to the dedication shown by all players throughout the season. The team now looks ahead with excitement to their upcoming semi-final clash against Mullingar CBS, which promises to be a competitive and rewarding experience regardless of the outcome.

Great credit is due to the players for their commitment, to the coaches for their guidance and encouragement, and to all who supported the team over the course of the year. The future looks very bright for this talented group of hurlers, and we look forward to seeing their continued development in the years ahead.

GORT SUPER 9S

On the 30th of April, a group of 20 Second and Third Year students travelled to Gort, Co. Galway to take part in a nine-a-side hurling competition. The team performed exceptionally well throughout the day, finishing top of their group after strong victories over Scoil Mhuire agus Íde, St



First Year Hurling

Back row: Mr C. Delaney, JJ Fogarty, Ollie Morrissey, Finn Walsh, Edwin Tynan, Mr R. Windle. Fourth row: Diarmuid O'Neill, Conal Kelly, Iarla Carroll, Leon Delaney, Harry Phelan. Third row: Ben O'Brien, TJ Hurley, Liam Crowley, Charlie Carter, Shane Cassin, Jayden Halligan. Second row: Billy Butler, Art Cowhig, Jimmy Butler, Elliott Morrissey, Jack Manogue, Ollie Ryall, Páidí Tierney, Tommy Ryle, Mark Healy, Andrew Phelan, Todd Lawlor, Conor Hoyne, Jimmy Rohan. Front row: Jake Heafey, Rory Phelan, MJ Burke, Tom Dalton, Tom Cahill, Noah Power, Olly Cummins.



Gort Super 9s - All-Ireland Champions

John the Baptist, and De La Salle.

Their impressive performance continued into the knockout stages, where they faced Nenagh CBS in the quarter-final. Delivering one of their best performances of the day, the team secured a well-deserved win to progress to the semi-final. There, they met De La Salle once again and repeated their earlier success to secure a place in the final.

In the final match, they faced the host team, Gort Community School, in a closely contested and intense game. With a loud home crowd behind their opponents, the atmosphere was excellent from start to finish. Although our team led at half-time, Gort struck



early in the second half, making for a close second half. However, a dramatic last-minute penalty saw St Kieran's home for the win.

It was a fantastic day for all involved, and the students represented the school with great skill, and determination.

JUNIOR HURLING 25/26

The junior hurling campaign this year proved to be an exciting journey, marked by commitment and competition throughout.

Preparations began as early as late August, when trials were held to assemble the panel. Interest levels were exceptionally high, with over 120 students turning out in the hope of earning a place. The depth of talent on display made selection a challenging task, but ultimately a strong and balanced panel was chosen.

Once the squad was finalised, attention quickly turned to preparation matches. The team faced tough early challenges against Ard Scoil Rís and Midleton CBS, games which provided valuable experience and helped shape the team ahead of competitive action.

The group stages saw the team drawn against St Mary's Enniscorthy and Good Counsel, both strong sides from Wexford. These encounters tested the squad's resilience and skill, and the performances in these games set a solid foundation for progression in the competition.

Advancing from the group stages, the team travelled to Clonkill GAA Club for a Leinster quarter-final clash with Mullingar CBS. In a determined and disciplined display, the junior hurlers secured a well-earned victory, booking their place in the semi-final.

This set up a highly anticipated meeting with local rivals CBC Kilkenny. In what proved to be a thrilling contest full of momentum swings, both sides battled fiercely throughout. Despite a courageous effort, the game ended in a narrow one-point defeat.

While the campaign concluded in narrow defeat, the journey was one filled with growth, teamwork, and pride in representing the school.

A sincere word of thanks must also go to the TY helpers, whose dedication and commitment in supporting the management team throughout the campaign did not go unnoticed.



Juvenile Hurling

Back row: Daithi Egan, Sean Dooley, Joe Hanrahan, Michael Hogan. Fourth row: Mr D. McCormack, Dara Kavanagh, Peter Quinn, Mark Phelan, Rory Treacy, Jamie Kavanagh, Odhran Murphy, Mr T. Brennan. Third row: Mark Byrne, Aaron Carrigan, Jack Lyng, Michael Kirwan, Conor Cody, John Hawe, Reuben Morrissey. Second row: MJ Carroll, Sean Coogan, Tom O'Donovan, Harry Brennan, Ger Cody, Jack Andrews, Conor Morrissey, Danny Maher, Cillian Murray. Front row: Ryan Spelman, Jimmy Grant, Eanna Costello, Tom Hoyne, Donie Chaill, Jack Darcy, Noah Flynn, Billy Kennedy, Seamus Costelloe. Missing from photo: Daniel Comerford.



Junior Hurling

Back row: Mattie Corr, Bríon Walsh, Sean Kavanagh, Rory Rhatigan, Liam Moore. Third row: Charlie Teehan, Hugo Carroll, Tom Duggan, Tadgh Kennedy, Sean Morrissey, Sam Kelly, Enda Cunningham. Second row: Mr S. Morgan, James Tierney, Sam Norton, Henry Phelan, Billy Ronan, Dylan Brennan, Sean Corcoran, Jack Stapleton, Mr D. Hennessy. Front row: Lorcan Mahony, Harry Egan, Max Edwards, Kyrell Mtinsi, Conor Power, Liam Corcoran, Eoin Philpott, Paddy McCarthy. Missing from photo; Aaron McCromack, Canice Power, Luke Cummins, Paul Millea, Sean Norton, Steve Hoyne.



Senior B Colleges

Well done to our senior B hurlers who won the final in early May against CBC Kilkenny on a scoreline of 4-17 to 3-13.

HURLING SEASON REVIEW 2025-2026

by Louis Raggett

The school-hurling season began in the very first week of September. For six weeks, trials were held mostly in Larchfield, as the two main hurling pitches on the school grounds were under reconstruction. As always, the trials were highly competitive. Eventually, the management team of Mr Dowling, Mr Ruth and Mr F. Brennan were satisfied with a forty-man panel. The 147-day journey began on 21st October with an introductory training session in Kells Road.

Training continued for four weeks before our first challenge arrived: a match against CBS in Palmerstown. Although only a league game, expectations were high, and a strong start to the season felt important, especially against CBS. On a day when our defence looked disjointed and our attack never really got going, we fell a point short to our neighbours in a disappointing start to the campaign. There is no doubt that the hurt from this defeat was stored away and used effectively in both the near and distant future. A week later, we got back on track by beating Good Counsel in a much-improved display of hurling, though it was only the beginning of what promised to be a long journey.

December was a month of opportunity, packed with challenge





matches against the likes of Midleton CBS, Gort and DCU Freshers. It was an honest period of hard work, during which fitness levels improved and plenty of ball-wall sessions were completed.

Upon returning to school after the Christmas holidays, knockout hurling was creeping ever closer. We played Good Counsel in the Leinster semi-final on a miserable day in SETU Carlow. Despite missing key forward Fionn Mahony, we beat Counsel by 27 points, thanks to fine performances from Gearoid O'Shea, Brián Hickey and Conor McEvoy.

The next hurdle was the Leinster final in Nowlan Park against our city rivals, CBS. With our junior hurlers having been thwarted by CBS earlier in the year, and our own defeat to them three months prior, serious questions were being asked about the state of hurling in St Kieran's College. When the day finally arrived, we ran out 19-point winners as we produced our best performance of the year. Strong defensive performances came from David Barcoe and Ben McEvoy, while Jake Mullen, Diarmuid Behan and Fionn Mahony led the charge up front. This resulted in our captain, David Barcoe, lifting the Corn Uí Dhúill Cup for the 60th time in the school's history. The excitement in the moments after the game even saw the fence in Nowlan Park collapse in a freak accident. Celebrations afterwards were short-lived, however, as we had an All-Ireland quarter-final to focus on.

Two weeks later, we met a St Raphael's team who were slick and sharp. A slow start from the College meant there was plenty of work to do as we headed for the dressing room at half-time. With 45 minutes on the clock, in an effort to back up a



teammate, Eoghan Cahill got a little too involved in wrestling Raphael's number 6 to the floor. Both players were shown red cards. There was no time to dwell on it, as we had a mountain to climb: we were trailing by five points with just over ten minutes to go. Kieran's managed to get the game's next ten scores, registering 2-8 in the final ten minutes. Fionn Mahony took the game by storm, scoring 1-5, while Jake Mullen and Diarmuid Behan stood up when it was most needed. We marched on, although it was a tense and unconvincing win on the day, with plenty left to improve.

Nenagh CBS proved to be our fiercest competitors of the year. We went into the game as slight underdogs, though we had a strong performance behind us from two weeks earlier. After performing well in training, Ned Spelman came into the starting fifteen and delivered a strong 60 minutes in the black and white jersey. Nenagh were the better team in the first half, and the dressing room scene was a mirror image of the Raphael's game: not where we needed to be. To make matters worse, Nenagh scored two goals in the second half, leaving us five points down with 56 minutes on the clock.

In a game that felt like it was not going to be our day, Luke Lawlor had other ideas, beginning Kieran's scoring surge with a beauty of a point. A minute later, Conor McEvoy added another fine score, leaving just three points between the sides with only minutes remaining. A quickly taken free saw Ben Nevin reduce the deficit to two. From the next play, Conor McEvoy nailed a long-range free. With the minimum between the sides, deep into injury time, an inspirational score was needed. David Barcoe was the man to provide it, striking an outrageous point from midfield to level the game and seemingly force extra time.

With the game in the melting pot and the sides level, it was next score wins. The breaking ball from the next puck-out was won by Ned Spelman, who handpassed to Gearoid O'Shea, and he launched the ball downfield. It seemed to grow wings as it travelled towards the Nenagh square. As it dropped, Dan Carroll wriggled through the Nenagh defence before nonchalantly poking the ball into the net, sending the Kieran's cohort wild.



Senior Team Helpers 2025/26

Senior Team Management 2025/26
l-r: Mr F. Brennan, Mr B. Dowling and Mr R. Ruth.

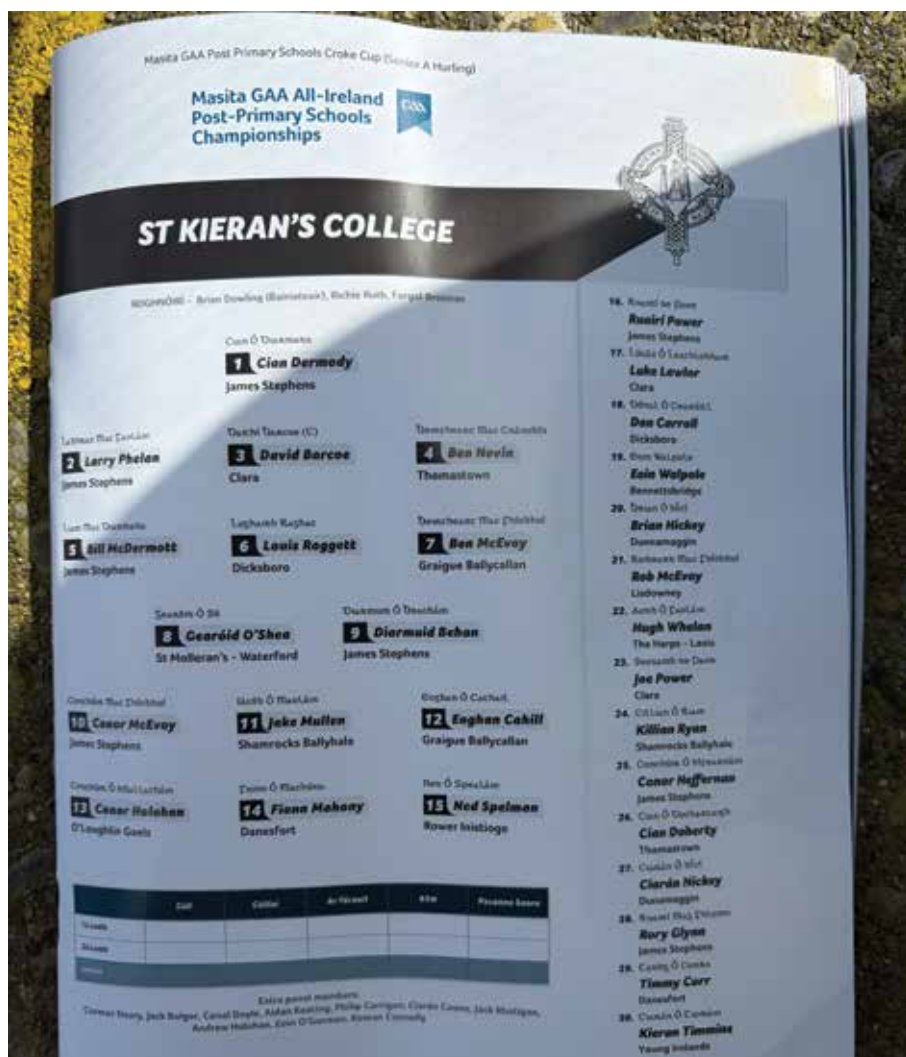
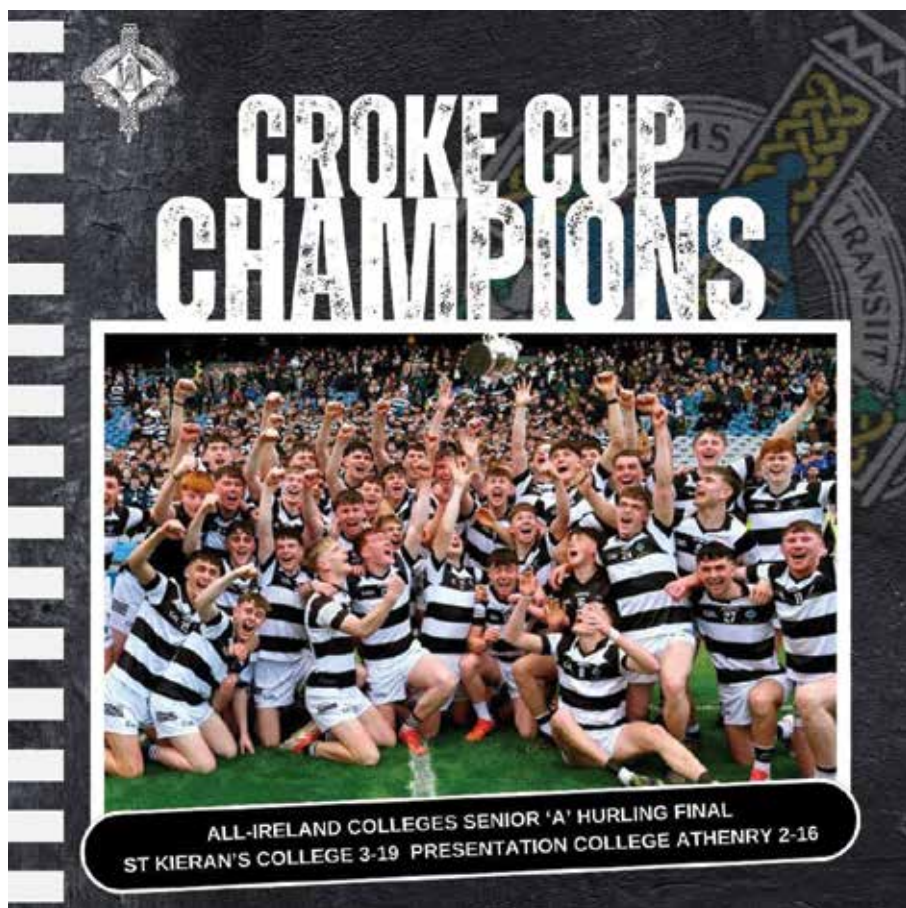
The miracle comeback was complete. Although the atmosphere after the match was electric, we knew in the dressing room that we were lucky men to be heading for Croke Park.

A big boost ahead of the final was the return of Eoghan Cahill after his recent "UFC display" against Raphael's. The bus journey up to Croker was the calm before the storm. We felt fresh and ready to go, kitted out in brand new gear provided by the school. After completing the warm-up for the final time, throw-in finally arrived in what we knew would be a tough contest against the Connacht champions, Athenry.

They started the stronger side, which had become something of a recurring theme for us. Thankfully, Geraoid O Shea (Gary) took matters into his own hands, rattling the onion bag in the process. The rest of the first half was tit for tat, and we went in at the interval a point down. It took us 50 minutes of hurling to finally edge ahead and stamp our authority on the game, thanks to a Gearoid O'Shea point. Up to that stage, Larry Phelan was hurling exceptionally well, while the second-half exploits of Conor Holohan and Brián Hickey were laying the platform for a strong finish. Rob McEvoy and Dan Carroll were also making a big impact as we moved three points clear with five minutes to go.

In the 59th minute, Fionn Mahony, who had already clipped over a number of points from play, decided to go one better by raising the green flag with a clinical finish. Finally, Dan Carroll sent us on our way, finishing Athenry off with a powerful strike to the roof of the net. The final whistle never felt so sweet, as St Kieran's College were crowned All-Ireland champions for the 26th time.

The men responsible for our success were Mr Dowling, Mr Ruth and Mr F. Brennan, who set out their aspirations for the season at the very beginning and achieved them all. They set the highest standards and demanded them constantly until we got our hands on the Croke Cup. The journey to, and the days after, the All-Ireland final left us with lifelong memories. On behalf of the panel, a huge thank you to the management and to the school for allowing us to live out a dream we had held since arriving as first years.







St Kieran's College All-Ireland Champions Clubs

Back row: Kieran Timmins (Young Ireland), Ciaran Coone (Thomastown), Luke Lawlor (Clara), Bill McDermott (James Stephens), Ben McEvoy (Graigue-Ballycallan), Eoghan Cahill (Graigue-Ballycallan), Jack Ratigan (Conahy Shamrocks), Ben Nevin (Thomastown), Conor Heffernan (James Stephens), Hugh Whelan (The Harps), Third row: Joe Power (Clara), Gearoid O'Shea (St Molranns), Aidan Keating (Young Ireland), Ciaran Hickey (Dunnamaggin), Killian Ryan (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Philip Carrigan (Clara), Dan Carroll (Dicksboro), Ned Spelman (Rower Instigfort), Timmy Corr (Danesfort), Fionn Mahony (Danesfort), Larry Phelan (James Stephens), Second row: Andrew Holohan (O'Loughlin Gaels), Roman Connolly (Thomastown), Jake Mullen (Ballyhale Shamrocks), Conal Doyle (Danesfort), Eoin O' Gorman (Carrickshock), Cian Dermody (James Stephens), Ruairi Power (James Stephens), Rory Glynn (James Stephens), Cian Doherty (Thomastown), Brian Hickey (Dunnamaggin) Front row: Diarmuid Behan (James Stephens), Cormac Neary (Graigue-Ballycallan), Jack Bolger (Barrow Rangers), Eoin Walpole (Bennettsbridge), David Barcoe (Clara), Louis Raggatt (Dicksboro), Rob McEvoy (Lisdowney), Conor McEvoy (James Stephens), Conor Holohan (O'Loughlin Gaels).



All-Ireland Champions 2026

Back row: Kieran Trimmings, Claran Coone, Luke Lawlor, Bill McDermott, Ben McEvoy, Eoghan Cahill, Jack Rattigan, Ben Nevin, Conor Heffernan, Hugh Whelan. Third row: Mr. Richie Ruth, Joe Power, Gearoid O'Shea, Aidan Keating, Claran Hickey, Killian Ryan, Philip Carrigan, Dan Carroll, Ned Speilman, Timmy Corr, Fionn Mahony, Larry Phelan. Second row: Mr. Brian Dowling, Andrew Holohan, Roman Connolly, Jake Mullen, Conal Doyle, Eoin O'Gorman, Cian Dermody, Ruairi Power, Rory Glynn, Cian Doherty, Brian Hickey, Mr. Fergal Brennan. Front row: Diarmuid Behan, Cormac Neary, Jack Bolger, Eoin Walpole, David Barcoe, Louis Raggett, Rob McEvoy, Conor McEvoy, Conor Holohan.



Leaving Cert Class 2026

