

WINTER NEWSLETTER



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SNA APPRECIATION DAY

The 26th of September marked SNA Appreciation Day where we thanked our SNAs for all the work they do in our school. Huge thanks to Vivienne, Annette, Conor, Marie and Josephine for all the effort they put in, in helping our students to learn and looking after their care needs.



IRELAND VS FINLAND

Students from The Abbey were given the opportunity to go to the Aviva Stadium on November 14th to watch Ireland v Finland in the UEFA Nations league clash. The students left school early with their teachers and headed to Dublin for a long evening of fun with their peers and cheering their country along at the same time. Ireland were the winners and celebrations lasted long into the evening. Well done to all teachers who organised and travelled and gave students and unforgettable experience.





PRINCIPAL FOREWORD

Foreword from Principal

Students, Staff and Parents,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our Christmas Newsletter 2024, an opportunity to reflect on the first term in this school year. Our students have engaged wonderfully and have had wonderful learning opportunities over the past few months. An incredible array of activities has been organised during that time creating opportunities for enjoyment, building relationships, and developing new skills. Our TY students enjoyed a wonderful trip to Rome Italy spending time at the Colosseum, The Vatican, The Baths of Caracalla and the Stadio Olimpico to name but a few. Our first-year boys have settled well into secondary school and have now chosen their Junior Cycle subjects. They are a fantastic group of boys willing to get involved in school life at every opportunity. They really enjoyed their trip to the Aviva Stadium to watch an exciting football match between Finland and Ireland earlier in the term where we had a good result. Transition year is always a time to explore and challenge oneself and our students have had a great range of opportunities this year so far, climbing the Galtee mountains, cycling the Waterford Greenway, gaining worthwhile work experience, attending a Law workshop, partaking in a GAA coaching initiative, Rugby Referee Course attending comedy shows, organising the Primary School Football day and refereeing a rugby blitz in Clanwilliam, Paintballing, First Aid training and learning to make Bodhrans! Our TY Cohort did a wonderful job organising the Think Languages Day and have enjoyed the challenge of partaking in the Foróige Youth Leadership Programme.

In late August, our 6th year Class of 2024 received their results. The results were truly outstanding and when our analysis was complete it was clear that the boys had eclipsed many national averages for grades achieved across the curriculum. Of far greater significance, was the success rate for our students in moving on to further education and training. We are proud of their achievements and know they will continue to be part of The Abbey School Community long into the future. Our Junior Cycle class of 2024 also received their results a few short weeks later, and again, received excellent grades laying down firm foundations for their future success. Most of the boys received their results while in Rome and celebrated with the support of their teachers. Our combined production with St Annes Secondary School of the Panto "Snow White" this year was opened for participation to all students in Transition Year. There were eight shows in total, five matinee shows and three evening shows. We received countless emails and phone calls here to the school complimenting the show and are immensely proud of what was achieved on stage. A memorable show produced under the guidance of teachers from St Anne's and The Abbey. Special thanks to our teachers Sinead O'Gorman and Anne Marie O'Connor for all they did to ensure that this year's show was top-class.

This term we opened our repurposed space for our Special Class (ASD) in The Abbey School; a reflection of our inclusive ethos and a desire to provide the best educational experience for all boys who choose our school. We hope to open a sensory room early in the new year which will be available to all students. Our main computer room is now relocated with the introduction of new set of Laptops to help our students with their projects and CBA reports.



PRINCIPAL FOREWORD

A huge word of thanks to all who helped organise this year's Golf Classic and of course to those who supported the initiative. It provided much needed funding for ICT upgrades in the school. A special mention and thank you to our main sponsor local company Home Agri. On the sporting front, dozens of games have been played across all sports which saw our Senior Footballers continue their journey at Senior A level, participating in the group stages. Our Senior Hurlers are going well and will face stiff competition after Christmas vs Borrisoleigh in the quarter finals of the Munster B hurling competition. Their commitment to training will continue over the Christmas break and we wish them well in the weeks ahead in their search for Silverware. Well done to all who trained across all sports and have represented the school this year. You are keeping great traditions alive and follow in the footsteps of great sportsmen who wore the Abbey Colours. Our students have taken part in Hurling, Football, Soccer, Rugby, Cross Country running, Swimming, Basketball and Chess. It is wonderful to see so many sports supported in The Abbey School. I would like to give mention also to a great day early in the term with our three All Ireland Minor Hurling heroes who brought their Cups to the school to celebrate with their classmates. It was a very proud day for the school and especially all teachers who had coached the boys during their time in the school. We hope this is the beginning of a new era for Tipp hurling and are delighted to see Abbey students play a leading role. We were lucky the boys were available as they are in high demand at present with duties such as turning on the Christmas lights in the town etc.

Our Open Night was a great success, and we hope again to take in three first year groups next September. This is a night where we see the school at its best but only because our entire school community play a part. Every year brings changes, and this year was no different. We welcomed five new staff members this year, Mr. Luke O'Neill to the English and History department, Mr. Stuart Moloney to Guidance and Ms. Kate Shtelmakh to the EAL teaching role, Aidan Griffin in the SEN Department and Marie Sadlier McGrath joined our team of SNA's. They all bring great experience and energy to their role. Two members of staff have left us to pursue a break in their career, Mr. Conor Hayes and Mr. John Kiely. We wish them both well and look forward to their return in the future. Mr. Kieran Hickey has started in role of Deputy Principal since September and is enjoying his role bringing fresh new ideas to The Abbey School.

On a personal note, my sincere gratitude to the entire Abbey Community for the support I have received in my role as principal throughout the first term. I am looking forward to the Christmas break but also the rest of the school year 2024/2025 and I know we can achieve a lot together moving forward. Finally, I want to take this opportunity to wish all our pupils, staff, and their families a happy and peaceful Christmas.

David Sadleir
Principal

PRINCIPAL FOREWORD

Foreword from Deputy Principal

As this busy term ends, I want to reflect on the great work done at the Abbey since September. Students and teachers have worked hard, and I'm proud of all we've achieved.

This term brought success both in the classroom and in sports. Our excellent Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle results reflect the dedication of our students and staff. Open Night was another highlight, with many boys from the community visiting. We look forward to welcoming them as new students next year. We also made key improvements, including structural changes to make the Abbey more inclusive and upgraded ICT facilities to enhance learning.

Thank you to students, staff, and families for your hard work and support. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year, and I look forward to an exciting 2025!

Kieran Hickey
Deputy Principal



SCHOOL NEWS

New Staff

We would like this opportunity to introduce you to the newest members of our staff here in the Abbey School.

- Aidan Griffin (AEN)
- Kate Shtelmakh (EAL)
- Marie McGrath (SNA)
- Stuart Maloney (Career Guidance)
- Luke O Neill (History and English)

We would like to wish all our new staff the very best for the year ahead.

New Acting Deputy Principal

In August, we welcomed back Mr. Kieran Hickey as Acting Deputy Principal. We are confident that his leadership and vision will inspire positive change and further enhance the exceptional work already happening here in the school.



Open Night Success

On Thursday, October 17th, The Abbey hosted its highly anticipated Open Night, welcoming a large crowd from our feeder schools across Tipperary Town and surrounding regions. The event showcased the best of what our school has to offer and left a lasting impression on both parents and prospective students. The evening was a celebration of community, creativity, and academic excellence. Teachers set up captivating displays in the social area, highlighting the wide range of subjects and extracurricular opportunities available at our school. In the specialized classrooms, visitors were treated to live experiments and engaging demonstrations, offering an exciting glimpse into the hands-on learning experiences our students enjoy daily. Adding to the festive atmosphere, our talented student musicians provided a melodic backdrop to the evening. A key highlight of the night was the guided tours led by our experienced student leaders. These tours allowed visitors to explore the school's facilities and learn more about our welcoming, inclusive environment. The student leaders did a fantastic job sharing their personal experiences and answering questions, adding a personal touch that resonated with many families. Each visiting student received a welcome pack containing a school prospectus, an application form, and a commemorative sticker to mark the occasion. These

SCHOOL NEWS

thoughtful gestures emphasized our excitement about welcoming the next generation of students into The Abbey School community.

The success of the Open Night would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff and students. Their efforts truly showcased the spirit and excellence of The Abbey School. We are optimistic and excited to see many new faces joining us in the coming year as they embark on their educational journey with us.



Introducing Our School Captain and Vice-Captain

We are proud to introduce this year's School Captain and Vice-Captain, two exemplary students who will represent the voice of the student body and serve as leaders in our school community. Well done to Seán and Cillian!



School Community Mass

On a special day of unity and reflection, students from The Abbey, St. Anne's, and St. Ailbe's secondary schools gathered in St. Michael's Church, joined by staff and members of the wider community, to celebrate their faith together. This meaningful Mass brought the three school communities together in prayer, to be blessed for the academic year ahead.



SCHOOL NEWS

School Gilets

This year, we are excited to announce a new addition to The Abbey School uniform: a branded school gilet. Available for purchase through the O'Neill's website, the gilet is an official part of the uniform and can be worn over the school jumper during class to help students stay warm during the colder months. This welcomed change provides students with a practical option for keeping comfortable while adhering to the school's uniform policy. It also allows students to proudly wear branded Abbey gear as part of their daily attire. Please note that jackets and coats that are not part of the official uniform must be removed when indoors and during class time. We are confident that this update will be well-received and appreciated by our school community as we continue to adapt to the needs of our students.



Room 16 Special Class Renovations

We are delighted to share the news of the recent renovation of our special class facilities, now expanded to include two large classrooms, a dedicated homeroom area, and thoughtfully designed quiet spaces. These enhancements provide a supportive and inclusive environment tailored to meet the diverse learning needs of our autistic students. This newly renovated space ensures that every student has access to a calm and comfortable setting, enabling them to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally within our school community. We are incredibly proud to offer a space that truly reflects our commitment to inclusion and the well-being of all students.



SCHOOL NEWS

Computer Room Renovation

Further renovations were also completed in the school this term with one of our classrooms being converted into a new computer room with new PCs and a wireless projector. ICT is a timetabled class for 1st years and TY students and they now have a new room to continue and enhance their learning. The school was also able to invest in another laptop trolley to further embed ICT into as many subjects as possible. A massive thanks to Mr. Darren Carew, our IT Coordinator and Computer Solutions for retrofitting the room and for maintaining our ICT infrastructure.



Golf Classic

We hosted our annual Golf Classic on the 19th and 20th of September. This year the Classic was in aid of upgrading our IT infrastructure within the school. We have had unbelievable support over the past few years and the community has been very generous with sponsorship of tee boxes and donations. Well done to Mr. Seán Mullins for all his efforts in organising the Golf Classic and to all the participants who took part.



SCHOOL NEWS

Comhairle na nÓg

Thursday the 7th of November saw three members of the Student Council, James Holmes, Sean O' Gorman and James Gleeson attend the Tipperary Comhairle na N'Óg AGM and youth conference. The event took place at the TUS Thurles Campus and inputs from the Ombudsman for Children's Office, Cll. Declan Burgess and past member Aisling Moloney. Congratulations to James Holmes who was elected to represent the Tipperary Town and Cashel area. James attended his first meeting on November the 23rd in Ballykisteon Hotel. The Comhairle are planning to focus on drugs and vaping. We wish James the best of luck.



Bottle Re-Return Scheme

We have set up two collection points in the school for recycling bottles and cans. Students can put their empty cans and bottles into these bins and when they are full, the school can put them through the recycling machines and use the money towards funding activities for the different year groups or for charities or initiatives being run in the school. This is one way in which the Abbey is working towards becoming a greener school and will form part of our application for a green flag.



SCHOOL NEWS

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ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Exam Results

We are immensely proud of our Junior Cycle, Leaving Certificate, and Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) students for their outstanding achievements in their exams. A special congratulations to our Leaving Certificate and LCA students who are now embarking on exciting futures in college, apprenticeships, and the workforce, making valuable contributions to their communities. The hard work and determination over the six short years of secondary school have truly paid off, and the joy and emotion of results day remind us of the rewards of perseverance. Well done to all!



Agricultural Science Farm Walk

Our 6th-year students recently enjoyed an educational Open Farm Day at Quinlan's Dairy Farm with their teachers, Mr. Michael O'Dwyer and Mr. Conor Sweeney. The visit provided valuable insights into modern dairy farming, particularly robotic milking on a grass-based system. A special thanks to Lely Center in Mullingar for teaming up with Quinlan's to deliver an engaging talk on their advanced milking technology. The students left with a deeper appreciation for innovation in agriculture and its role in sustainable farming practices.





ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

History

This term, Ms. O'Gorman introduced her first-year class to the world of archaeology through a fun and innovative activity. Students acted as archaeologists, carefully excavating chocolate chips from cookies as if working on a real dig site. This hands-on approach to learning captivated the students and made history come alive. Active learning methods like these are particularly beneficial in history classes, fostering engagement and a genuine interest in the subject. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained valuable insights into archaeological techniques.



In another engaging strand of history, Ms. O'Gorman's first-year class delved into the world of Ancient Rome by dressing up as warriors equipped with swords and shields. The students actively participated in the interactive lesson, bringing history to life in a way that was both educational and enjoyable.



Geography

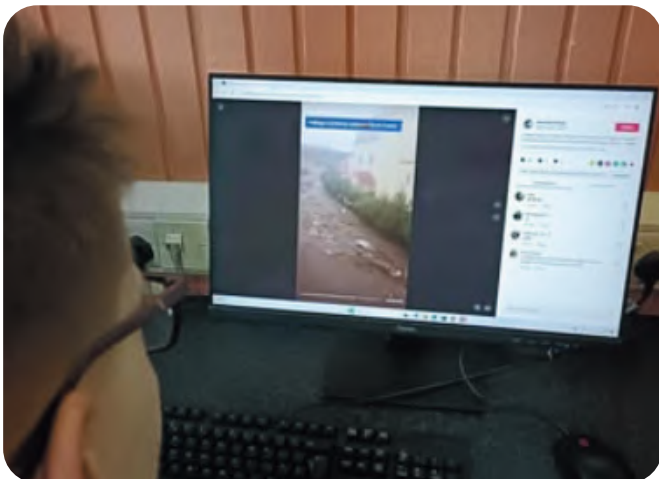
Our 6th-year geography students recently visited Bunmahon Beach in Co. Waterford with their teachers, Ms. King and Mr. Sweeney, to conduct Leaving Certificate research on coastal deposition, which accounts for 20% of their final exam. Guided by Tina, a geologist, the students measured the beach profile, conducted wave surveys, observed weather conditions, collected beach material samples, and drew conclusions from their experiments. The students left the Abbey at 8:30am and arrived on site to a very windy and cold beach but that added to the fun. The students also went for a short walk on the beach with their teachers to identify and learn about features of coastal erosion. After completing the fieldwork, the group capped off the day with a refreshing dip in the chilly sea—a fun and memorable way to end a productive learning experience.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS



Continuing on with the Junior Cycle students, the Geography Department has worked hard to embed technology into first year learning. Students have been taught to use various websites to track storms and weather warnings as well as use social media appropriately to gain good primary knowledge on natural disasters and global events. Teaching good critical thinking and research skills at this early stage of their learning will benefit the students in the long run and help them as they navigate CBAs and Leaving Cert Projects.

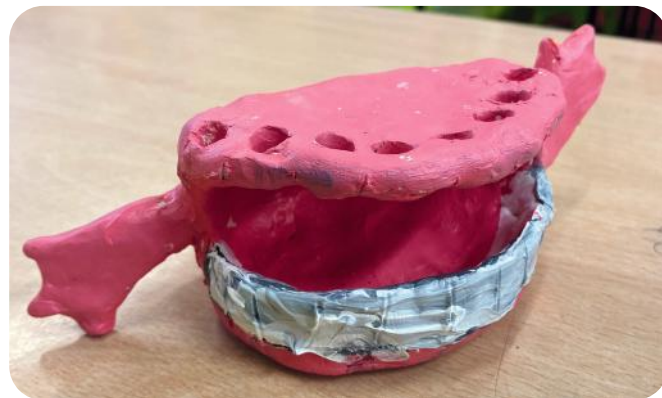


Art

Ms. O'Connor has done amazing work this term with her classes. They created pumpkin displays, art pieces, and Christmas decorations. On a sunny day, they took their art outdoors to draw the school, showing off some very talented Junior Cycle artists. Ms. O'Connor also played a big part in designing and building the set for this year's musical. Her creativity and hard work have made a huge difference, and we want to say a big thank you for everything she has done!



🎅 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS



First years participated in the yearly Pinch Pot competition during the art module taster. The students could make a 'monster' themed pot that was either functional, ornamental or a combination of both. It was a very competitive year as just under 70 students all made a pot and submitted it. Well done to all first years who participated in this and a particular congratulations to our 6 category winners.

'Best Craftsmanship' : David Cannon

'Best Design' : Daniel Waugh

'Most functional pot' : Eain Godfrey

'Most Innovative': Billy Kilmartin

'Best Character': Joined winner Sean Ryan and Patrick Downey

'Best Ornamental pot': Sean Crowe



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS



First years also worked hard this week making Christmas Baubles. Students and teachers were asked to bring in old or spare Christmas baubles from their home which the students would then repaint and redesign to make new Christmas decorations. This was a very enjoyable experience for the first years and also showed them how sustainable they can be by repurposing old, used or unwanted items into new and fresh items. The students had to draw out their design for the bauble and carefully try to recreate it on their chosen decoration. Each student made a beautiful decoration and will be able to have it as a keep sake in years to come.





ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Maths Week

Maths Week at The Abbey School was a great success! Various activities were held during maths classes to promote science and encourage students to enjoy maths. Ms. Flynn and Ms. O'Mahoney organized a fun quiz for first-year students, while other junior classes engaged in maths games that were designed to build their numeracy skills. The week was all about making maths enjoyable and fostering a positive attitude towards the subject across all year groups. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn and have fun at the same time.



Ms. Flynn also hosted a competition which involved the local primary schools. There were hundreds of entries and it was very difficult to choose a winner in the end so it was decided to have a prize winner in every school. This was a really enjoyable experience and it helped the Abbey to create further academic links with our local primary schools.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

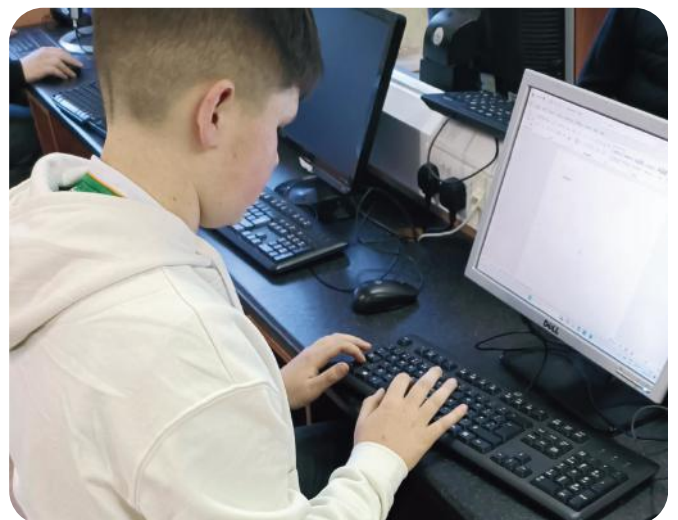
Reading for Leisure

The Reading for Leisure class is working very well to develop and enhance literacy rates across our first year groups and is a welcomed addition to the timetable. Students are given 40 minutes of reading time each week where they can bring in a book or choose one from the library or book corner in Room 6. Ms. King recently conducted a survey in her class which asked the students what type of books they like to read and what authors they like. Students are expected to write about their progress on reading the book and to write a book review when they complete a full book. There are a range of books from short novellas to graphic novels to biographies available and students are very welcome to add books to the library from their own collection, if they have permission to do so.



ICT

Each first year class is timetabled to have 40 minutes of ICT a week to help them to develop typing skills and digital skills. The students will need these skills as they move forward in their studies at second level and third level as well as when they enter the working world. For Junior Cycle, students will be creating most of their CBAs and school projects using Microsoft 365 and Canva.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

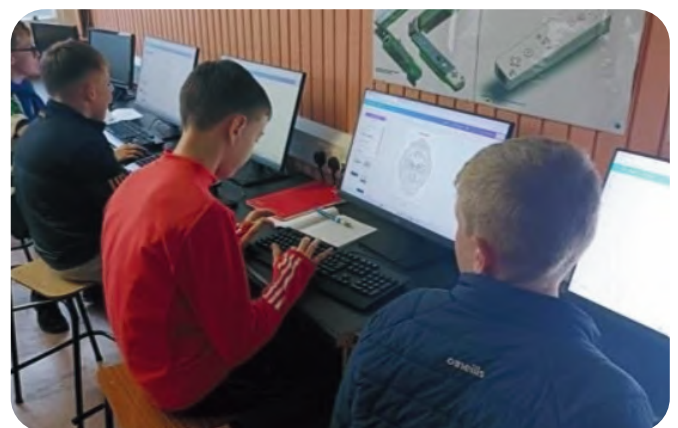
Science Week

Science Week took place recently and the science department held activities for students in the Abbey to engage with. Students from 1st and 3rd year participated in engaging table quizzes that tested their knowledge and teamwork. In addition to the quizzes, there were fun colouring and riddle competitions that sparked creativity and critical thinking. One of the highlights was the challenge to balance a marble using limited supplies, which encouraged innovative problem-solving. Overall, it was a week filled with excitement and learning, enjoyed by everyone involved.



Irish

Ms. King has been working on teaching her first year Irish class about digital portfolios. After each topic the students work on Canva to create a piece on what they have learned. Students complete a paragraph on what they have learned on the topic and this is automatically saved for them to revise should they need it for an exam at a future date. They are also encouraged to print out their work and stick it into their hardback copies. Using Canva is also teaching the first years about digital design skills which will be very useful to them on future projects and CBAS.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Think Languages

Our [#Thinklanguages](#) Champion Team Conor Kelly, Jaye Cilvanas, Charlie Crowe, Donncha Quigley, Mark Ryan and Eoin Ryan along with Ms. Kay O' Dwyer and Ms. Irene Ryan organised a Celebration of Languages for Transition Year on Thursday 21st of November. Our Transition Years were delighted to be joined by the Transition years from St. Anne's School along with German teacher Ms. Cleo Fitzpatrick. Despite being hampered by the snow, the day kicked off with a wonderful opening ceremony and a quiz where students from The Abbey and St. Anne's competed against other schools throughout the country. This was followed by a delicious French and German breakfast of crossaints and pretzels with some orange juice. The mid-morning session saw a discovery of different languages and cultures, with students taking part in Chinese art, Italian cuisine and Portuguese capoeira. To finish the day, students enjoyed new movies streamed from the Irish Film Institute in both French and German.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

College Awareness Week

College Awareness Week at The Abbey was an enriching experience for students, thanks to the efforts of our guidance counsellor, Mr. Stuart Moloney. Representatives from colleges and universities in the region visited the school to provide insights about higher education opportunities. Students also enjoyed visiting some campuses, exploring facilities, and getting a feel for college life. The trips allowed them to ask questions and envision their future studies, bridging the gap between secondary school and the next exciting chapter of their education. It was an inspiring and informative week for all involved!





ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Apprenticeship Workshops

There was a wonderful learning experience on September 12th for 5th and 6th year students who had an interest in pursuing an apprenticeship. Tipperary ETB opened the doors of their apprenticeship and pre apprenticeship workshops and provided an overview of the apprenticeships available. Being able to see the workshops for electrical, construction plant fitting, electronic security systems, commis chef apprenticeships and many more, opened up student's eyes to opportunities available to them through Tipperary ETB.



TRANSITION YEAR

Surfing

The TY'S kicked off their first trip of the year by visiting Lahinch Co. Clare for a surfing trip they arrived at Lahinch and were split into 2 surfing groups. Group one would start their surfing experience early in the morning at 10. Group two were able to go around Lahinch town to get food to eat, or stay on the beach and play seaside rugby/football. Group two would soon get their turn on the water at 12 and get to experience the surfing waves of Lahinch, the TYs were extremely happy with their first trip of the year, with a wonderful way to kick off TY .



Galtee Mountain Hike

There had been a build up to the Galtee hike since the surfing trip, as all the TYs looked forward to this day out. The TY's set out early on what was unfortunately a cold rainy windy Tuesday morning, although the weather was not on our side the boys persevered through and began their hike up the Galtees led by a

by a wonderful group of tour guides, despite the wind the boys kept pushing up the Galtees and reached their eventual resting place by a Lough, although it was foggy they were still provided by a wonderful view, the boys slowly made their way down the Galtees and returned to their bus and finished school early.



The Greenway Cycle

The boys prepared for their 3rd trip of the year as they left early in the morning for the Waterford Greenway Cycle. The boys got geared up at the bicycle rental and prepared to set off on the 22km cycle across the Waterford Greenway. The boys encountered a few flat tyres here and there but were able to get through the cycle and were rewarded with lovely scenic sights of Co. Waterford. were able to have 40 minutes around town to stop in and get a bite to eat before the TYs returned home to Tipperary

TRANSITION YEAR



First Aid

The TYs participated in a comprehensive three-day First Aid course, gaining valuable life-saving skills. A key focus was CPR, where the boys learned how to perform chest compressions, assess a patient's responsiveness, and use a defibrillator correctly at an accident scene. Additionally, they learned practical skills such as how to apply slings, wrap bandages, and treat various injuries, including burns and crush injuries. This hands-on training provided the students with essential first aid knowledge, preparing them to handle emergencies with confidence and care.



Law Workshop

The boys participated in a two-day Law Workshop, where they learned about various aspects of law, including types of legal protections for their age group and career opportunities in law. The workshop concluded with a mock trial, which not only provided a fun experience but also gave the students a valuable insight into what a career in law entails.



Bodhrán making Workshop

The TYs participated in a two-day Bodhran-making workshop, divided into two groups. They were taught the step-by-step process of crafting their own Bodhran, a traditional Irish drum. The boys designed their Bodhrans by using carbon paper and stencils to decorate both the wood frame and the skin. After completing the construction, they received a lesson on how to play simple rhythms, including the iconic song "We Will Rock You." This experience gave the students insight into traditional Irish craftsmanship and music.

TRANSITION YEAR



Work Experience

The TY students had the invaluable opportunity to experience their first week of work placement from October 22nd to the Mid-term break. They secured positions across Tipperary and beyond, working in sectors such as Engineering, Retail and Community Work. Work experience is a crucial part of the TY program, offering students a chance to develop important workplace skills and a professional mentality. This early exposure to the workforce gives them an incredible advantage and can help shape their future career paths. We wish to thank all of the local employers who have worked with the school over the past number of years and who continue to take our students year after year. We are very appreciative of the effort the local community goes to, to help us out. We look forward to the upcoming placements in February and March and wish them the best of luck.

Foróige

Foróige, also known as YSI (Young Social Innovators), is a leadership program for Transition Year students that focuses on developing essential skills such as leadership, communication, and delegation. Students participate in learning-based activities that are designed to strengthen these core skills. They also engage in a week of community experience, contributing to projects such as Tidy Towns or helping out at local retirement homes and community centers. YSI helps students grow as leaders while encouraging them to make a positive impact on their communities. This program plays a key role in shaping responsible, proactive young adults.



TRANSITION YEAR

Snow White Pantomime

A standout moment in TY was the school's pantomime, a true testament to teamwork and dedication. Every student involved, whether in the lead roles, chorus, or backstage, poured their heart into making the production a success. The chorus learned intricate dances, while the lead actors memorized lines and songs, and the backstage crew ensured the seamless flow of the show. With many performances, the boys and girls captivated the audience, feeding off their energy. The success of the pantomime not only made it a memorable experience for the students but also united the community in appreciation of their hard work and talent. Congratulations to all involved in creating this magical production especially Ms. O Gorman and Ms. O Connor.



TRANSITION YEAR

Trip To Rome

The trip to Rome was undoubtedly a highlight of TY for the students. They set off from Tipperary Town at 2:00 AM, arriving at Dublin Airport around 4:45 AM, where they were handed their passports and directed to the terminal. Upon landing in Rome, the students visited iconic landmarks like the Colosseum, Vatican, Sistine Chapel, and Stadio Olimpico. They explored Rome's rich history, including reconstructed Roman sites, enjoyed the Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps, and ended with a fun-filled day at Magicland theme park. The trip concluded with their return to Tipperary Town, full of unforgettable memories.



COMMUNITY CARE

Christmas Jumper Fundraiser

The Abbey School's Student Council is hosting a fundraiser to support two important local charities, Circle of Friends Cancer Support and the Dillion Quirke Foundation. Circle of Friends provides vital emotional and practical support for individuals and families affected by cancer, while the Dillion Quirke Foundation focuses on raising awareness of sudden cardiac arrest and supporting young people through education and defibrillator initiatives. On Friday, 13th December, students are participating in a Christmas jumper day, contributing €3 each to show support for these invaluable causes in the community. This is an annual event held in the Abbey and each year different charities are chosen to benefit.



COMMUNITY CARE

Stand Up Awareness Day

Stand Up Awareness Day is an event aimed at raising awareness and promoting inclusivity for the LGBTQ+ community. The Abbey School is proud to support this cause, ensuring that all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, feel safe, respected, and valued. As part of this support, we proudly fly the LGBTQ+ flag outside our school, standing in solidarity with our students and the wider Tipperary Town community. This initiative fosters a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone.



COMMUNITY CARE

Linking with Nursing Homes at Christmas

As part of 1st Year Wellbeing and under the topic of Our Community we looked at how we could make a small difference in our community this Christmas. Each first year student designed a Christmas Card and wrote a message wishing the receiver a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The students then delivered these as a group to Sacré Coeur on Station Road and to Cluain Arran Nursing Home in Avondale Crescent. The students also gifted each of the homes four boxes of sweets to share amongst their residents. It is very important to teach our students about how it is always good to think of others and those who may have less than us, and if we can, to help them in some way. The students enjoyed this exercise very much and really loved delivering the cards and sweets just before Christmas.



COMMUNITY CARE

Social and Political Awareness

Our 3rd year students were delighted to have past pupil Cllr John O' Heney in to give a talk on local politics and on the importance of registering to vote, when they come of age. John also talked about his role in the County Council as a newly elected member and the changes that he hopes to make. He also talked about the election process and his thoughts on running for the general election in the hopes of becoming a TD for the local area. It is vital that we teach our students the importance of voting and how their vote can affect their lives and the community they live in. Tipperary Town currently does not have a representative in the Dáil and this is something that we hope will change in the future.



COMMUNITY CARE

Breakthrough Cancer Research

Our Transition Year students dedicated a day to fundraising for Breakthrough Cancer Research, an Irish charity focused on advancing cancer treatment through innovative research. The charity works to improve the outcomes for cancer patients by funding vital research into early detection, treatments, and cures. The students showed incredible dedication, raising funds by collecting donations on the streets of Tipperary, as well as outside local businesses and the shopping centre. Their hard work and commitment to supporting such an important cause are truly commendable, and they have made a meaningful contribution to the fight against cancer. This is a charity very close to the school's heart and is a well worthy cause that we will continue to help into the future.



COMMUNITY CARE

Community Food Bank

Each year The Abbey works hard to link in with local charities and one charity we are very proud to support year after year is the local community food bank. Reverend Mike O Meara runs the local food bank and drops a box to The Abbey each year with a specific list of what is required. In the past not only have we filled these boxes, but we have also made donations to the local food bank to help to keep it in operation. We know how vital it is to our local community particularly at Christmas. We are happy to report that this box was filled to the brim and collected by Reverend O Meara the week before Christmas.





SPORTING SUCCESS

Cross Country

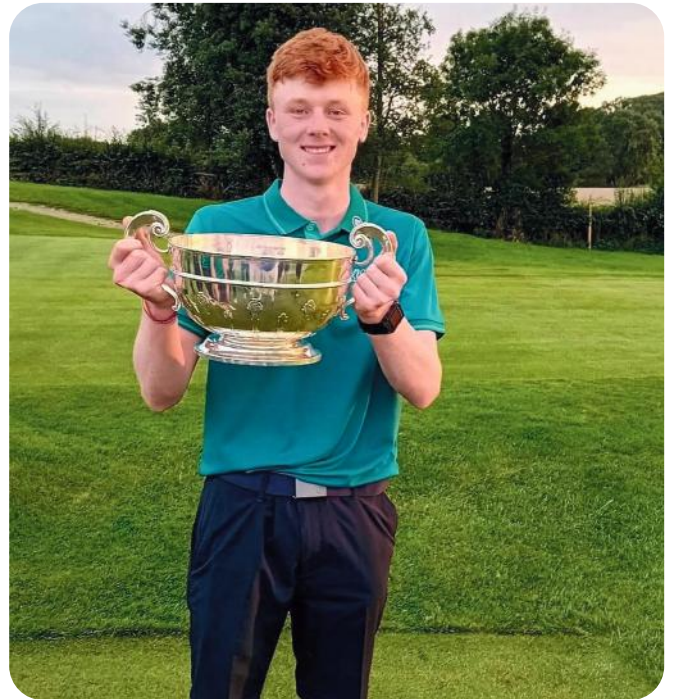
On the 14th November 2024, 1st years and 2nd years from Abbey CBS travelled to Thurles for the County Tipperary Post Primary Cross-Country Championships. This was the first time in many years the Abbey entered a team in this event. With a team in the minor boys and junior boys event, it was uncertain how we would perform given the depth of rich running talent within the county. However, with displays of grit, determination, teamwork, tactical nous and a never say die attitude, the teams from Abbey CBS won team bronze in each event. A fantastic achievement for the school. Next up is the East Munster Schools Championships in January. Thanks to Aidan Collins TY for helping out on the day. The teams on day were: Minor Boys: Conor O'Meara, Darragh Downey, Mark Cunningham, Cathal Hennessy, Odhran Ryan, Gearoid Maguire, Keelan Sheerin, Cian O'Connell, Michael McGrath, Michael Collins, Billy O'Donnell, Eain Godfrey, Ciaran Duddy and Jack Hayes. Junior Boys: Paddy O'Neill, Conor Kiely, Sean Crowe, Jamie Bowler, Ben O'Dwyer, Cathal O'Neill, Daithi Byrnes, Rocco Julian and Gearoid Kinane.



SPORTING SUCCESS

Golf

Well done to Michael Collins, 1st year who represented the school in the Irish junior schools championship, Munster qualifiers held in Ballykisteen GC in September. Michael played really well in testing conditions in what was a good start to the schools golfing year. We also congratulate 6th year Student Donnacha Cleary who won the Munster Area Qualifier in the Irish Schools (u19) championship in Thurles this term. Donnacha has now qualified for the All Ireland finals which will be held in Miltown Golf Club, Dublin in the New Year. We wish him continued success.





SPORTING SUCCESS

Swimming

Our Abbey swimmers pictured at the Munster Schools Championships in University of Limerick in November. All boys swam brilliantly and achieved personal bests in all races representing the school very well!



UL SPORT

IRELAND'S SPORTS CAMPUS





SPORTING SUCCESS

Soccer

Our First Year soccer team began their campaign with a resounding 7-2 victory over St Ailbe's in the first round. The team showcased excellent attacking football, with Gearoid Maguire leading the charge with clinical finishing, Tomás Leahy impressing in midfield with his creativity, and Cathal Henessy providing a rock-solid performance in defence. The team now looks ahead to their next match against Comeragh College. With their confidence high and the squad in top form, they're determined to build on their impressive start. Best of luck to the First Years in the upcoming round! Our U17 soccer team has been on fire, advancing to the Munster quarter-finals after two emphatic wins. They defeated Borrisokane Community College 5-2 and followed it up with a dominant 5-1 victory over Rockwell College. The team's cohesion and work ethic were on full display, with standout performances from Anthony Murphy, who consistently dictated the tempo in midfield, John O'Callaghan, whose defensive prowess was instrumental, and Eoin O'Connell, who excelled in attack with clinical finishing. The team now prepares for a tough quarter-final clash against Coláiste Chiaráin of Croom. With their recent performances setting a high standard, the U17s are eager to push further in the competition.





SPORTING SUCCESS

Senior Soccer

Our Senior soccer team showcased moments of brilliance during their campaign, starting with a fantastic 6-1 win over Borrisokane Community College. Javier Serrano was a standout performer, dazzling with his skill and goal scoring ability, while Alex Webster provided a dominant presence in midfield. Michael Bowes also delivered a commanding display, contributing both defensively and offensively. Unfortunately, their journey in the Munster competition came to an end in the last 32 after a 4-1 loss to a strong Coláiste Dún Iascaigh side. While the result was disappointing, the team showed great determination and spirit throughout the season, and their performances set an excellent example for younger players in the school.





SPORTING SUCCESS

Basketball U16

Our U16 basketball team delivered a strong series of performances in their recent games. The team secured impressive victories against Coláiste Mhuire Thurles and Scoil Ruáin, showcasing excellent teamwork and determination. Despite their efforts, they came up short in closely contested matches against CBS Clonmel and Coláiste Dún lascaigh. In a nail-biting finish, the team narrowly missed out on progressing to the knockout stages by just one point. While disappointing, it highlights how competitive the group was throughout. Standout performances came from Conor O'Doherty, whose leadership on the court inspired his teammates, Colm O'Shea and Sean O'Gorman, whose defensive strength kept the team in key moments. The team can be proud of their hard work and growth this season. With such talent and determination, future success is surely on the horizon!



SPORTING SUCCESS

Basketball U19

Our U19 basketball team recently concluded a series of exciting games, showcasing determination and skill. The team earned well-deserved victories against Coláiste Dún lascaigh and Scoil Ruáin, demonstrating exceptional teamwork and focus. Despite their best efforts, they narrowly lost competitive matches to CBS Clonmel and Coláiste Mhuire Thurles. Heartbreakingly, the team missed out on progressing to the knockout stages by just one point—a testament to how tightly contested the games were. Standout performances included Jack O’Keefe’s leadership on the court, Bartosz Wawszczyk’s precision passing, and David Simaitis’ outstanding defensive efforts. Their contributions played a key role in the team’s success and inspired their teammates.



SPORTING SUCCESS

Rugby

Our first year rugby team have had one outing so far this year in Munster Rugby's Development blitz. They played five games on the day winning three games, drawing in one and were narrowly defeated in the fifth game. This group of lads have shown great teamwork and potential. They will have more blitz's to compete in after Christmas. Our under-15 rugby team is looking forward to a highly competitive Cleary Cup competition after Christmas and our under-18 rugby team will compete in The Bowen B competition for the first time. We wish them both the best of luck.





SPORTING SUCCESS

Rugby

Our under-16 rugby team has shown remarkable determination and discipline throughout their recent matches in The King Cup Competition, culminating in a well-deserved victory against St. Colman's College Fermoy. In this game, they displayed exceptional teamwork and skill. Their journey didn't end there, as they faced Hamilton High School Bandon in a nail-biting encounter for a place in the semi-finals. Despite their best efforts and a valiant performance, they narrowly missed out, losing by just three points. The team's resilience and commitment to the sport have been commendable, and they should be proud of their achievements this season. Their hard work and dedication have set a strong foundation for future competitions.





SPORTING SUCCESS

Football

The Abbey CBS senior football team showed resilience and determination in the prestigious Corn Uí Mhúirí Munster Senior 'A' Championship. Preparation began early, with challenge matches against St. Flannan's, Ennis, and Mitchelstown CBS. In the opening round, they faced reigning champions Mercy Mounthawk, Tralee, suffering a tough defeat (4-14 to 0-9). Round two saw a spirited performance against St. Pat's Castleisland (1-13 to 1-11), with standout efforts from Sean O'Mahony and Ciaran Kelly. The campaign concluded against Skibbereen CS in a high-scoring match (5-13 to 4-5). Despite exiting the Munster competition, the team demonstrated commendable determination and now turns its focus to the county championship with confidence.

ABBHEY CBS: C McGrath (Oola); S Cleary (Knockivalla Kickhams), M Bowes (Arravale Rovers), J Cilvinas (Arravale Rovers); S Bourke (Aherlow), D Ryan (Arravale Rovers), D Bresnan (Arravale Rovers); A Ryan (Arravale Rovers), E Ryan (Arravale Rovers); D O'Hora (Solohead), S O'Mahony (Arravale Rovers), F Doyle (Solohead); P Chapman (Aherlow), C Kelly (Arravale Rovers), A Webster (Arravale Rovers). Subs: M Flanagan (Aherlow) for A Webster (51), LJ Roche (Galtee Rovers) for D Ryan (58).



SPORTING SUCCESS

Hurling Teams:

Our first year hurlers competed in the annual county A hurling blitz played in Coolmore Morris Park Thurles on Tuesday 24th September. We faced tough competition in the first two games against Nenagh CBS and the High School Clonmel. However The Abbey improved as the day went on and went on to beat Cashel Community School in the last game on a scoreline of 3-4 to 1-5. This result meant that our first year team qualified for the plate competition on the following Thursday 3rd October. In the plate series we lost out narrowly to Nenagh CBS 1 on a scoreline of 2-6 to 2-3 and the following game to Nenagh CBS 2 on a scoreline of 3-8 to 2-6. The Abbey were unlucky in both these games and showed great promise on both blitz days. Panel - Ciarán O'Dwyer, Charlie Considine, Mark Cunningham, Jack Hayes, Alex Wilkinson, Cathal O'Neill, Jack Marnane, Gearóid Maguire, Odhran Ryan, Seán Ryan, Paschal Nugent, Michael McGrath, Tomás Leahy, Kian O'Connell, Conor O'Meara. Eoin Renehan, Thomas Fitzgerald, Ciarán Hennessy, Seán Crowe, Brian Hartigan, Kyle McGrath, Andy Quinlan, Gearóid Kinane.





SPORTING SUCCESS

Hurling

Hurling in The Abbey School has seen great representation once again. Our senior team has seen an entire panel of 36 players from sixth year down to transition year get into a Munster quarter final that is to be played in January. This is a credit to their dedication to training during lunchtime and after school. Our first years have also showed a huge interest in this extra-curricular activity as the school was able to have two teams represent it. Again, huge dedication was shown from the boys during lunchtime training at the start of the year and they will look to build on this momentum preparing for the Rice Cup. More preparation is being put into place for our U15 squad who play Scoil Pol Kilfinane in the first round of their Munster competition. The U17 will also be looking to get a win over Carrick on Suir in their match to be played after Christmas. It is a credit to the students and their dedication to training that so many teams will be involved in competitions after Christmas. It is also a credit to the teachers who dedicate their time during lunch and after school to help them reach their full potential as hurlers.





SPORTING SUCCESS

Tipperary Appreciation Day

The school hosted a momentous occasion in September welcoming the Munster U20, Munster minor and All Ireland Cups for a huge celebration. It was fantastic to see our students Adam Ryan, Darragh O Hora and David Ryan along with selector and past pupil Conor O Brien carrying the cups to great applause. We also welcomed two Tipp U20s who are past pupils- Conor Martin and Steven Dee. We wish all our teams the best of luck this year and we hope to see many more Abbey students continuing on the tradition of sport for many years to come.



SPORTING SUCCESS

Conor Sweeney's retirement from Tipperary Football

We would like to wish our colleague and teacher Conor Sweeney the very best with his retirement from inter county football. Conor embodied the very best in his commitment and dedication to Tipperary football and we are so very proud of all he has achieved. We wish him well in the future and we are sure he has many more years exciting years ahead in the Abbey as a teacher, football coach, mentor and great friend to us all.





CHRISTMAS EVE

SEAMUS HEANEY, 1982

THE BARE BULB, A SCATTER OF NAILS,
SHELVED TIMBER AND GLINTING CHISELS:
IN A SHED OF CORRUGATED IRON,
ERIC DAWSON STOOPS TO HIS PLANE.

AT FIVE O'CLOCK ON CHRISTMAS EVE,
CARPENTERS PENCIL NEXT, THE SPOKE-SHAVE,
FRETSAW, AUGER, RASP AND AWL,
A RUB WITH A RAG OF LINSEED OIL.

A MILE AWAY IT WAS TAKING SHAPE,
THE HULK OF A TOY BATTLESHIP,
AS WATERBUCKETS ICED AND FROST,
HARDENED THE QUIET ROOF AND GATEPOST.

ERIC DAWSON, WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
THERE WERE FIFTEEN YEARS BETWEEN US TWO,
THAT NIGHT I STRAINED FOR THE UNHEARD BELLS,
OF A SLEIGH: NOW I HEAR YOU PEDAL.

INTO OUR LANE, GET OFF AT THE GABLE,
STEADY YOUR RALEIGH BICYCLE,
AGAINST THE WHITEWASH, STAND TO MAKE SURE,
THE HOUSE IS QUIET, KNOCK AT THE DOOR.

AND HAND YOUR PARCEL TO A PEERING WOMAN:
"I SUPPOSE YOU THOUGHT I WAS NEVER COMING".
ALL IN THE WORKSHOP OF MY THOUGHTS,
AND SILENT AS THE NORTHERN LIGHTS.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR STAFF AND STUDENTS

REV. FR. HUMPHREYS MEMORIAL.
THE
ABBNEY SCHOOL
meán scoil
na mBúrcar S'Críostúil.

MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING YOU
PROSPERITY, HAPPINESS, AND
SUCCESS.

MAY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON BE
FILLED WITH LAUGHTER, LOVE,
AND CHERISHED MOMENTS WITH
LOVED ONES.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A
WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!

AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF
JESUS AND LOOK FORWARD TO
THE NEW YEAR, MAY YOUR HEART
BE FILLED WITH HOPE, PEACE,
AND JOY.





Designed and Created by Julie King