



THE ABBEY SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2025

 SCHOOL LIFE



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TEARMAINN



SPORT



PRINCIPAL'S FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the Abbey School's Summer 2025 Newsletter. As we come to the end of the 2024-2025 school year it gives us an opportunity to reflect on the year and to acknowledge the participation and achievements of our students and their teachers. This year has seen many new developments in the school again. In the late Autumn the Department of Education handed over two newly refurbished spaces, Room 16 and 17. This entire area was formally opened by Councillor John O'Heney and blessed by Fr. Everard and will be know as Tearmainn(Sanctuary) moving forward. It is a wonderful space where students from the locality with a diagnosis of Autism can received a tailored educational experience, supporting the inclusive ethos of the school. In addition construction works were completed for the development of a sensory space in the school which we will formally open in September. This year also saw the opening of our school gym and Leaving Certificate Physical Education space. The area was formally opened by former students, Tipperary hurler, Johnny Ryan and Limerick Footballer Josh Ryan. This has now become a very busy space in our school, with boys training before, during and after school for preparation for competitive sport, preparation for LC projects and overall fitness and wellbeing. We are very proud to be able to offer this fantastic facility to our students.

The School has received two Inspection reports which are available to be viewed on our school website, in recent times. These reports highlight clearly the fantastic teaching and learning which is happening in the school. This affirmation of good practice from the Inspectorate is very welcomed by all in the school. This year has also seen huge work happening in the area of SEN provision. With the help of the NCSE, a major review has occurred and much planning is in place to provide a new model of provision for the coming academic year. September will also see the reopening of common room area at lunchtimes providing opportunities through fun and games for our student body to integrate with each other, outside of opportunities offered by our rich sports programme.

It is vital in our endeavours to provide a rich curriculum to our students that the Board of Management of the school are always reacting positively to change. Senior Cycle reform will be a challenging time for all schools, but with the support of the Board, next September will see the introduction of student devices for TY and fifth year students, a new Transition Year programme assessed through an electronic portfolio of work and a major overall of the IT infrastructure of the school.

It is an honour to welcome a cohort of Ukrainian students to The Abbey School this year who have added greatly to our school community, bringing increased diversity to our culture, and increasing awareness across the entire school that we all live in a world where challenges we could never imagine can enter our lives very quickly and unexpectedly. Many of the students will continue their education with us next year and have truly become Abbey boys during the year.

ItWe welcomed a large group of 1st year boys in September, one of the biggest groups for a number of years. They have settled into school life quickly and observing them at Sports day recently, one would believe they were here a lot longer than a year. They are a fantastic group and will add a lot to the school community during the next number of years. We recently began the process of saying farewell to our current 6th year group at their graduation. The ceremony was a lovely occasion enjoyed by the boys and their parents. We are sad to see them move on but excited for what lies ahead. They will without doubt go on to achieve great things. We wish both our 6th year and 3rd year students all the best in State Examinations in the weeks ahead.

Our Transition year students enjoyed an amazing year of activities and learning opportunities. They have learned many new skills in computing, first aid, driving lessons, Foróige Youth leadership, Gaisce Awards, Young Social innovators, enterprise, and much more. They learned to sing and dance during our musical/panto "Snow white" which was a great success. I personally received many emails and calls from the public complimenting the show, the students and the staff involved. In early Autumn they travelled on their European Tour and they spent a week in Carlingford to wrap up the year. The year was capped off with a wonderful TY Graduation in our hall where we were all reminded of the value and content of Transition Year. We can say with confidence that this group are ready for the challenges of the next two years. Their willingness to get involved in all the programme had to offer this year was exceptional.

This year was again a fantastic year for all sports, Rugby, Hurling, Soccer, Football and Basketball. There were achievements in all sports at many levels with standout achievements including u15 Munster Hurling Success, U19 A Football County Champions, U19 Hurlers reaching the semi-final of Munster championship , reaching the final of the Munster U17 Soccer championship and reaching the latter stages of U18 rugby in Munster. Hopefully this summer will see further work occurring in the school, with planned upgrade of student changing rooms and toilets, building on the work which occurred last summer.

Finally a word of thanks to all students and their parents, to the Board of Management, Parents Council and the Staff of The Abbey School for making the academic year 24/25 such a success. It is an honour to serve as Principal in a school which has such a wonderful sense of community and care for each other.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'D'.

SCHOOL LIFE



THE GRAND OPENING OF TEARMANN

The grand opening of The Abbey School Special Class was a momentous occasion, and we would like to extend a huge well done to the management, all the teachers involved in Tearmann, and the SNAs. Their dedication and hard work make a significant impact on the lives of these young people, providing them with the support and resources they need to thrive. The opening of this special class marks an exciting new chapter for our school, one that celebrates inclusivity, care, and the commitment to every student's success. We are incredibly proud of the positive difference this will make in our school community. Our second class is due to open in August 2025.

SPONSORED WALK

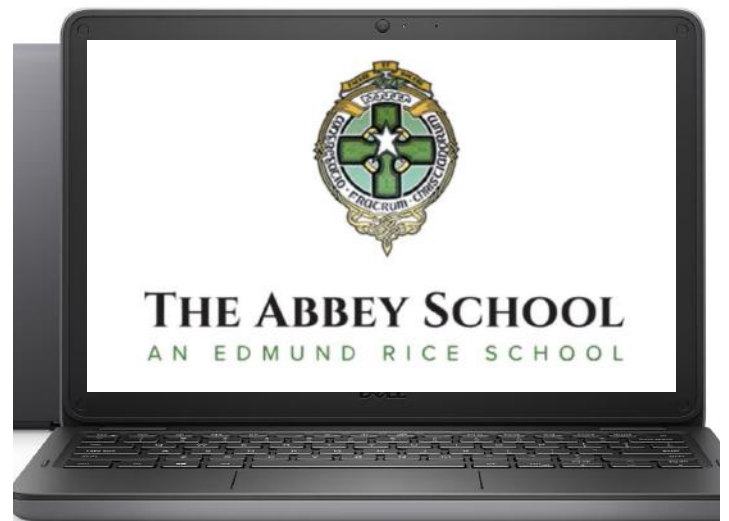
The Junior students in the school recently took part in our annual school walk/run, which is one of our key fundraisers. The event was a fun and energetic way for students to get active while supporting the school community. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards purchasing sports equipment and funding recreational activities, helping to enhance the student experience here at the Abbey. A big thank you to all who participated and supported this event- your contributions make a real difference to the opportunities available to our students.



SCHOOL LIFE

NEW 1:1 SCHOOL DEVICES

The Abbey School is proud to announce the introduction of 1:1 devices for our Transition Year students, marking a significant step forward in our journey toward a more digitally integrated learning environment. While we have held off on this transition for as long as possible, the demands of the new Senior Cycle curriculum, particularly the emphasis on project-based work which now accounts for up to 40% of final grades, have made this move both timely and necessary. Each TY student will be equipped with a Dell Latitude 3140 2-in-1 laptop, a robust and versatile device that will support them throughout the remainder of their secondary education and serve as a strong foundation as they progress into third-level studies. The device will come with a protective case and will be fully supported by Olive IT, who will also be supplying the laptops. Olive IT will provide comprehensive setup services for every student's device, ensuring all required software and educational applications are installed and ready to go. In addition, the laptops will be equipped with Senso classroom management software, giving teachers the ability to guide and oversee digital activity during class to keep learning focused and productive. We recognize this as a major step forward for The Abbey School, one that reflects our commitment to providing students with the best possible educational outcomes. In a world increasingly shaped by technology, it is vital that our students graduate not only with strong academic skills but also with the digital fluency needed for success in modern workplaces and further education. We are excited to take this leap and confident that it will greatly enhance the teaching and learning experience across our school community.



SCHOOL LIFE

FIRST YEAR LIBRARY VISIT

Our First Year students recently enjoyed a visit to the local library, where they explored the wide range of services available beyond just borrowing books. As part of the trip, students were introduced to the Magic Table – an interactive resource designed to support learning through play – and many took the opportunity to sit down for a friendly game of chess with their peers. The visit highlighted just how valuable the library is as a community resource, offering a welcoming space for learning, creativity, and connection. A heartfelt thank you to the Excel for hosting us and for continuing to provide such a fantastic facility for the town.

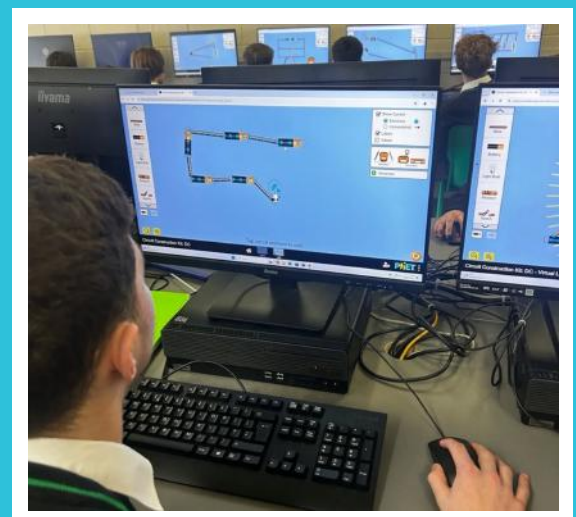


FOOTING TURF IN GEOGRAPHY

As part of their Energy module, our First Year students had the chance to learn about peat and other fossil fuels in a hands-on way by trying their hand at foot turfing. For many of our students, it was their first time visiting a bog, so we recreated the bog environment on the front field to give them a real feel for the process. The day was filled with fun and friendly competition as the students raced to see who could foot turf the quickest. There was also a lively debate on which type of footing would be best for the optimum drying of turf. It was a unique and engaging way to bring the history and science of energy to life, while also connecting with an important part of Ireland's rural heritage.

SCIENCE CIRCUITS

In Ms. Guiney's third year class, students took full advantage of this initiative by building and testing PhET simulations. These simulations allowed them to investigate whether different objects were conductors or insulators, providing a hands-on approach to understanding electrical properties. Additionally, students were given the opportunity to measure voltage and current, reinforcing key scientific concepts through practical application. The integration of technology into their lessons not only made the material more engaging but also equipped them with valuable skills for future scientific study.



SCHOOL LIFE

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

The Abbey was buzzing with excitement for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025, as students and staff came together to celebrate and promote the Irish language. Junior students got creative by designing vibrant posters featuring Seanfhocails (Irish proverbs), which were proudly displayed around the school to inspire and educate everyone. Our TY students joined forces with St. Anne's for a lively Céilí, embracing the joy of traditional Irish dance and music. Well done to all who took part and helped make this week such a memorable celebration of Irish culture!



STUDY SKILLS

Teaching study skills early is essential in helping students develop effective learning habits, manage their time, and build confidence in their abilities. At The Abbey, we recognise the value of equipping students with these tools from the beginning of their academic journey. This year, we organised a dedicated study skills session for our Junior Cycle students who are preparing for their exams. The session focused on practical strategies such as goal setting, note-taking, active revision techniques, and stress management.

FOTA ECOLOGY TRIP

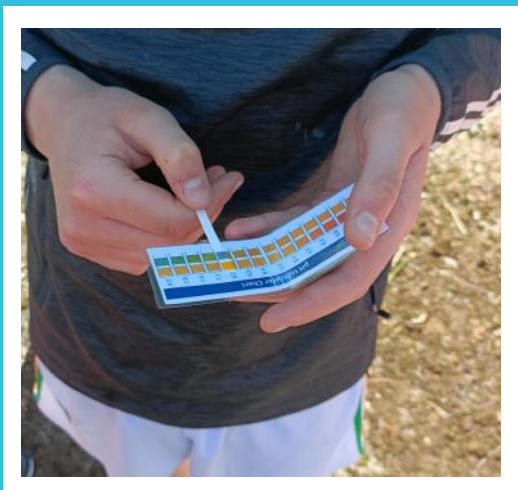
The Abbey was honoured to be chosen to take part in the River Ecosystem Campaign, organised by the Water Forum. A dedicated group of Geography students participated in this exciting event, conducting a variety of scientific experiments on the Arra River to better understand its ecosystem and environmental health. The students were fortunate to be assisted by Mr. Shane Mulcahy of Arrabawn Tipperary Cooperative, whose expertise greatly enhanced their learning experience. A huge well done to all involved for their hard work and enthusiasm. We look forward to continuing our engagement with this important project in the coming years, further contributing to the conservation and study of our local river ecosystems.



SCHOOL LIFE

GLOBE IRELAND PROJECT

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SCHOOL LIFE

LINK WITH YOUTH SERVICE

Our First Year students recently had the opportunity to visit the local Youth Service in town, run by Tipperary Regional Youth Service, as part of their wellbeing class. During the visit, the students were able to relax on the comfortable couches and enjoy a friendly game of pool, taking some time to unwind. In addition to the fun, they also learned about the various benefits the Youth Service offers and how it can provide support, activities, and resources for young people in the area. It was a great opportunity for our students to familiarise themselves with this valuable service and discover how it can contribute to their personal wellbeing and development.



ROAD SAFETY TALK

Members of the Garda Roads Policing Unit, Garda Anastacia Murphy and Garda Eamon Rhatigan, recently visited our school to present the Lifesaver Project to our 5th and 6th year students. The aim of the session was to raise awareness of road safety and highlight the dangers of the road as these young people begin their driving journeys. It was an invaluable opportunity for our students to learn important safety tips and develop a greater understanding of the responsibilities that come with being on the road. A special thanks to Community Garda John Hennessy for facilitating this education day, along with Sergeant John Kingston of Tipperary Garda Station, for their time and commitment to ensuring the safety of our students.



3RD YEAR CINEMA TRIP

To mark the end of a busy and successful school year, our 3rd Year students were treated to a special trip to the Excel Theatre to see Thunderbolts. It was a well-deserved break and a great opportunity for students to relax and enjoy time with their friends. The outing was a fantastic way to celebrate the end of term.



SCHOOL LIFE

CONCLAVE IN THE ABBEY

This month, first-year geography students explored geopolitics in a creative way by simulating a Papal Conclave. Each student was assigned a real-life cardinal to research and represent in a mock election for Pope. They also made their own Birettas- the hats that Cardinals wear. They presented their cardinal's values and proposed reforms for the Catholic Church, sparking lively discussion on topics ranging from social justice to tradition. After three rounds of voting, and the symbolic "white smoke", a new pope was chosen. The activity offered a fun and meaningful opportunity to explore the global intersections of religion, politics, and leadership.



WELLBEING NOTICEBOARD

In an effort to promote mindfulness, self-worth, and a sense of community, a new Wellbeing Board has been installed in our school corridor and it's already inspiring smiles and reflection. The board is filled with beautifully designed affirmation cards, each offering a simple but powerful message of encouragement, strength, or kindness. Students and staff are warmly invited to browse the board and take a card that resonates with them. Whether it's a reminder to "trust your journey" or to "be proud of how far you've come," these affirmations serve as gentle nudges to practice self-compassion throughout the day. The goal of the board is to create a daily opportunity for positive reflection and to remind everyone in our school community of their intrinsic value. So the next time you're passing by, take a moment. You might just find the words you didn't know you needed.

SCHOOL LIFE

LEARNING THE UKULELE

Pictured here are our First Year students enjoying their music class as they learn to play the ukulele. At The Abbey, we believe it's important that every student has the opportunity to learn a musical instrument in their first year. Learning music not only nurtures creativity but also supports teenage development by improving memory, focus, emotional wellbeing, and teamwork skills. Our exceptional music programme provides students with opportunities to showcase their talents not just in the classroom, but also at various school events and functions throughout the year. Their skills and passion for music enrich every Abbey experience, creating a vibrant and inclusive school community.



STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

As the year draws to a close, 1st years spent a few classes reviewing the art work of their fellow students in other year groups. A wide variety of projects have been made over the last year with a particular focus on 3D work and crafts. 1st years worked in pairs to review and respond to the art works on display. Not only did it help students apply the knowledge they're learned about Art Elements this year, but also acknowledge and admire the work created by their peers.



SCHOOL LIFE

SILAGE SEASON

Agricultural Science continues to thrive as one of the most popular and successful subjects at senior cycle in The Abbey. Our 5th year Agricultural Science students have been learning about the importance of silage, a vital winter feed for livestock that plays a key role in maintaining animal health and farm productivity. From understanding the fermentation process to recognising the value of quality grass preservation, students are developing both scientific knowledge and practical insight into real-world farming systems. A major reason for the subject's success at The Abbey is the enthusiasm and expertise of Mr. O'Dwyer, who leads the department. Coming from a farming background himself, Mr. O'Dwyer brings a wealth of experience and passion into the classroom. His ability to connect textbook theory with on-the-ground agricultural practices helps students see the real-life applications of what they learn. His commitment to excellence and his deep understanding of rural life have inspired many students to pursue agricultural careers or further study in the field.



MAKING PUPPETS IN ART

In the Art Department at The Abbey, creativity has been thriving with an exciting puppetry project led by Ms. O'Connor. After months of hard work, students proudly unveiled their handcrafted puppets – each one a testament to their dedication, skill, and imagination. The project took students on a full artistic journey, beginning with character design, followed by the construction of puppet heads and bodies using papier-mâché techniques. They also learned valuable new skills, including how to use a sewing machine to create detailed costumes tailored to their characters. At The Abbey, we take great pride in nurturing creativity, and projects like this highlight the immense talent and enthusiasm of our students.

SCHOOL LIFE

OPEN DAY IN TIPP TOWN

Our TY and 6th year classes were recently invited to the open days at The Construction Centre and The Community Service Centre in Tipperary Town, providing them with a fantastic opportunity to explore further education options available locally. We were fascinated by the wide range of courses and apprenticeships on offer, giving our students valuable insights into potential career paths and training opportunities in the area. A huge thank you to Tipperary Further Education Centre and Tipperary ETB for the kind invitation and for providing such an informative and engaging experience for our students.



SPHE DEBATING

1A2 SPHE class held an engaging debate on the motion: "Emotional well-being is more important than physical well-being." This debate is a great example of how we encourage students to discuss and debate important topics, particularly in SPHE, to help them develop critical thinking and gain a wealth of knowledge. It's an excellent way to ensure that students leave the class not only with a greater understanding of emotional and physical well-being but also with valuable skills in communication and reasoning.

EASTER TREATS

Each member of our first year class was treated to an Easter Egg on the Friday of their Easter Holidays. We feel that rewarding good work is essential and this was a really nice way to finish the term.



SCHOOL LIFE

MUSIC PRACTICALS

A huge well done to all our music students who completed their practical exams this week- we are incredibly proud of your dedication, talent, and hard work! Music holds a special place at The Abbey School. It's not only a valued subject in our curriculum but also a vital part of school life, enriching our celebrations, ceremonies, and events throughout the year. From liturgies to graduations, our students' musical contributions help create memorable and meaningful experiences for the whole school community. Beyond the classroom, music nurtures creativity, builds confidence, encourages discipline, and fosters collaboration, which are all essential skills for life and learning.



ART IN THE SUN

Fun in the sun! Our art students had a fantastic time enjoying the beautiful 22°C weather as they took their classroom outdoors to draw their school. With the sunshine lighting up the campus, students focused on capturing the textures and shadows around them, applying their skills in new and creative ways. It was a wonderful opportunity to develop their artistic abilities while appreciating the natural surroundings. The results were impressive, with some great work showcasing their talent and attention to detail. A perfect way to combine creativity and the great outdoors!



SCHOOL LIFE

DRUG AWARENESS

Third Year students at The Abbey CBS, Tipperary Town recently took part in a valuable and engaging Drug Awareness Talk delivered by Garda John Hennessy. The session aimed to educate and inform students about the serious risks and consequences associated with substance misuse. A wide range of important topics were covered, including the dangers of drug and alcohol use, the legal consequences and penalties related to drug offences and the impact of substance misuse on individuals, families, and communities. Garda Hennessy also took time to share information on support services available to young people, emphasizing the importance of seeking help and making informed choices. Talks like this play a crucial role in student wellbeing and personal development, and align with The Abbey's commitment to education that supports both academic and life skills. The school extends sincere thanks to Garda Hennessy for delivering such an informative and impactful session.



READING NOOK IN ROOM 6

Students at The Abbey now have even more opportunities to unwind and enjoy a good book during the school day, thanks to the addition of a Reading Nook in Room 6, available at lunchtime. Stocked with a range of current, age appropriate books, the nook offers a calm, welcoming space where students can take a break, relax, and get lost in a story. This lovely new addition complements the existing Reading Corner located by the social and pastoral area, meaning that no matter what side of the school students are on, there's a space available to sit down, have a chat, or enjoy some quiet reading time. These reading spaces are particularly valuable for supporting literacy promotion across the school, encouraging a love of reading in both avid and emerging readers and offering students a peaceful retreat during a busy school day. The Abbey is proud to foster a culture where reading is celebrated and supported. Students are also free to drop books they are finished with, so others can enjoy them.

SCHOOL LIFE

NEW SCHOOL MURAL

Before Easter break the Art Department hosted a competition to celebrate the official opening of room 16&17, which will be known as the 'Tearmainn' area of the school. There will be a mural installed on the wall outside these rooms, and it will be a student led project so they had an opportunity to submit their ideas for the space based on a brief. 'Tearmainn' is a Gaelic translation of the word 'sanctuary' which is the main idea for the mural. The special classrooms are a place for students to participate in their academics, to socialise, to use recreationally and to rest. It is an inclusive space and we hope for the mural to represent these key aspects of the new area. There was many fantastic submissions and mural concepts. Congratulations to Daniel Ryan 3rd year who was our overall winner, and photographed with him are the runners up Sean Crowe, Odhran Ryan, Eain Godfrey, Victor Jaszewski and Ayann Ishaq who submitted ideas with potential for other murals in future we hope.



2ND YEAR GO-KARTING

Our 2nd Year students were treated to an exciting day of Go-Karting at the National Kart Centre in Limerick. The energy, the competition, and the laughter made it a truly memorable experience for everyone involved. It was great to see the students enjoying themselves, encouraging each other, and sharing plenty of laughs as they raced around the tracks. Days like these are so important, not just for the fun, but for the chance to build friendships and create lasting memories outside the classroom. A huge thank you to all the staff who accompanied the group and helped make the day run so smoothly. Your support and enthusiasm are always appreciated, and it means a lot to the students.



SCHOOL LIFE

CAREERS FAIR IN THE ABBEY

The Abbey recently hosted a vibrant and wide-ranging Careers Fair, giving students a valuable opportunity to explore their future pathways. The event welcomed a fantastic mix of local businesses, enterprises, and representatives from universities and colleges across Munster, Leinster, and Connacht. The fair also showcased a broad spectrum of options beyond traditional university routes, with strong representation from Further Education colleges, Post-Leaving Cert (PLC) providers, and apprenticeship programmes, ensuring students could explore every possible avenue, from academic to hands-on training. Students from Transition Year, 5th Year, and 6th Year were given time throughout the day to visit the hall, where they could engage directly with employers and third-level representative, ask questions about courses, entry requirements, job opportunities, and student life and discover new possibilities they may not have previously considered. The Careers Fair proved to be an inspiring and informative event that encouraged students to think seriously about their future goals, their interests, and the many diverse pathways available to help them get there. Events like this are an essential part of The Abbey's commitment to student development, ensuring all learners are well-informed and supported as they prepare for life beyond school.



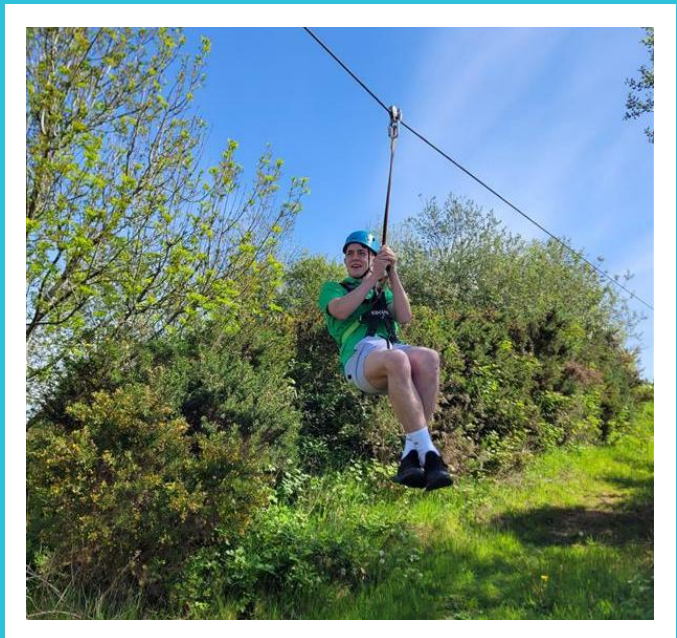
IMTA MATHS QUIZ

Students from The Abbey recently took part in the IMTA (Irish Mathematics Teachers' Association) Maths Quiz held in Kilfinane, where they demonstrated incredible teamwork, quick thinking, and problem-solving skills. After an intense and closely contested tie-breaker, The Abbey team proudly secured third place, a fantastic achievement in a highly competitive field. Participation in events like this also helps raise the profile of maths in schools, showing students that it's not just about formulas and equations, but about problem-solving, creativity, and real-world impact. Congratulations again to The Abbey team on their impressive result and for being brilliant ambassadors for maths in education!

SCHOOL LIFE

FIRST YEAR TRIP TO BALLYHASS

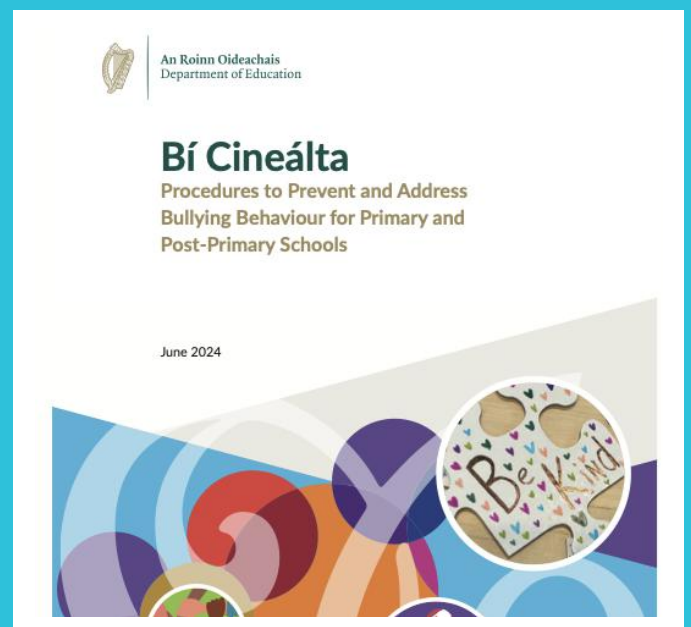
Our First Year students recently enjoyed an unforgettable trip to Ballyhass Lakes, packed with excitement, team-building, and outdoor fun. From ziplining and kayaking to high ropes and water obstacle courses, the day was filled with challenges that brought out the best in everyone. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to bond, build confidence, and make lasting memories outside the classroom. This trip is a much-loved annual tradition and one that all First Year students eagerly look forward to each year. A huge thank you to the staff and instructors at Ballyhass Lakes for a safe and thrilling experience—and well done to our students for their enthusiasm and brilliant behaviour throughout the day! A huge thank you to all the teachers and SNAs who accompanied the boys on their Ballyhass Lakes adventure. Your support, encouragement, and supervision helped make the day such a positive and memorable experience for everyone involved. We truly appreciate the time and care you give to ensure our students have these enriching opportunities beyond the classroom.



SCHOOL LIFE

BÍ CINEÁLTA TRAINING

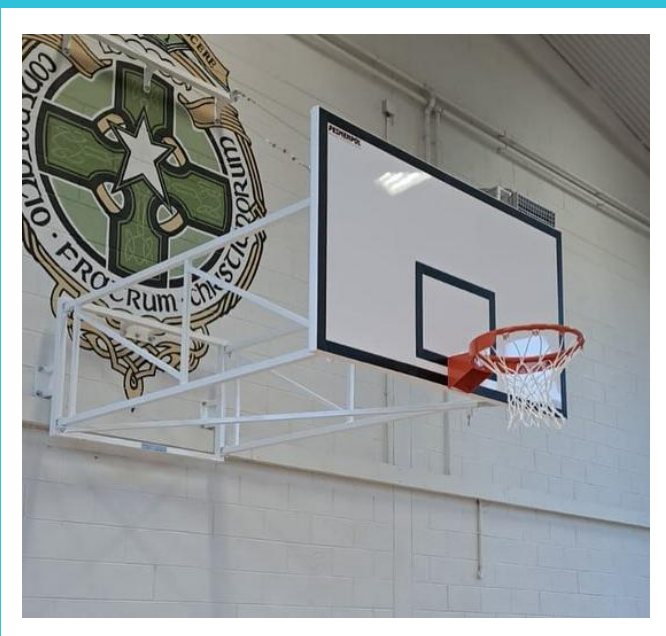
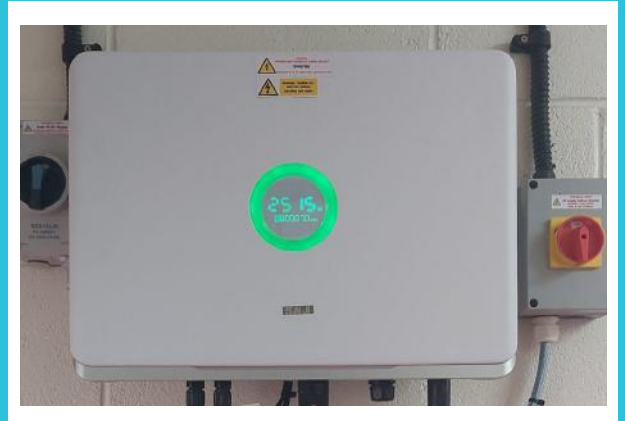
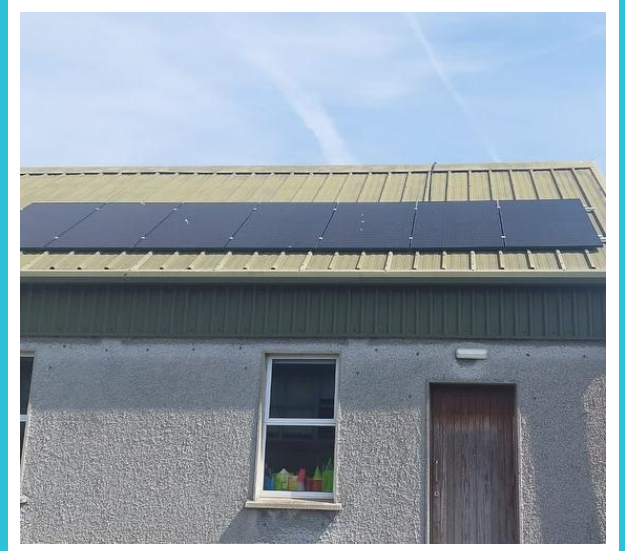
Last term, staff at The Abbey School participated in a full day of Bí Cineálta training—the first step in implementing Ireland’s new national anti-bullying policy, introduced by the Department of Education. “Bí Cineálta,” which translates to “Be Kind,” is more than just a slogan—it’s a whole-school approach aimed at promoting kindness, respect, and inclusion while taking a firm stand against bullying in all its forms. The policy encourages schools to move beyond reactive responses and instead build positive cultures where every student feels safe, seen, and supported. During the training day, staff explored practical strategies for early intervention, student empowerment, and creating environments where bullying behaviours are less likely to emerge. Key components include clear reporting procedures, restorative practices, and consistent follow-up to ensure all students feel protected and heard. For The Abbey School, Bí Cineálta is an opportunity to deepen our commitment to student wellbeing and strengthen the positive relationships that are the foundation of our school community. It reinforces the message that kindness is not just encouraged—it is expected. As the policy rolls out, students will also have opportunities to learn about Bí Cineálta through classroom discussions, wellbeing activities, and school-wide initiatives designed to build empathy and connection. Together, we are working toward a safer, kinder, and more inclusive Abbey School for all.



SCHOOL LIFE

NEW SOLAR PANELS

As part of our drive toward sustainability, The Abbey School has taken a bold step by installing brand-new solar panels on campus. These panels will significantly reduce our carbon footprint, promote the use of renewable energy, and make our school more energy-efficient for years to come. This project was proudly supported through a government sustainability grant, and we're incredibly grateful to Eco Green Resources for their expert installation and professionalism throughout. At The Abbey, we believe in leading by example- showing our students the importance of environmental responsibility and ensuring our school continues to grow as a modern, eco-conscious space. The installation of solar panels brings a range of long-term benefits to our school community. Not only do they significantly reduce our energy costs, allowing more funding to be directed into educational resources, but they also lower our carbon emissions, supporting national and global efforts to combat climate change. Solar energy is clean, renewable, and reliable, meaning we're investing in a more sustainable future for our students. Additionally, it provides a valuable learning opportunity, showing students the practical steps organisations can take to protect the planet and demonstrating our school's commitment to environmental leadership.



BASKETBALL HOOPS

We're delighted to unveil our brand-new basketball hoops in the PE Hall- another step forward in enhancing our sports facilities. At The Abbey School, we place great value on the role of physical activity in supporting both mental and physical health. These new additions will encourage more students to take part in sport, improve their coordination and teamwork skills, and most importantly, have fun while staying active. Whether it's during PE, team training, or just a friendly game at lunchtime, the hoops are already proving to be a slam dunk!

GRADUATION

6TH YEAR GRADUATION

To the Leaving Cert Class of 2025

As you stand at the threshold of a new beginning, we want to take a moment to speak from the heart and tell you just how proud we are of you. We have watched you grow from wide-eyed first years trying to find your way, to the confident, resilient young men who now prepare to step out into the wider world. Your journey has been far from ordinary. You began your secondary school life amidst the shadow of a global pandemic. COVID disrupted what should have been the start of something exciting and full of promise. Instead, you were met with isolation, uncertainty, and upheaval. But you adapted. You persevered. You found yourselves, not just as students, but as individuals, as friends, as Abbey boys. Life didn't go easy on you, but that only made you stronger. The challenges you faced have forged a resilience that will carry you through anything life throws your way. You didn't just survive these past few years, you grew, you supported one another, and you built a legacy of courage and camaraderie that will remain long after you've moved on.

When all of this- the study, the exams, the final days in uniform, comes to a close, your next chapter begins. Some of you will go to college, some into work, some on different paths entirely. Wherever you go, take with you the lessons you've learned here, not just from books, but from life, from struggles and from friendship. And when you look back, we hope you'll smile. We hope the memories of the laughter, the friendships, the moments of madness and magic within these halls will warm your heart because you'll always be a part of this place. You'll always be a part of us. No matter how far you go, no matter what you do, our door will always be open. Once an Abbey boy, always an Abbey boy.

We will miss you all, and we wish you nothing but the best.



GRADUATION



GRADUATION



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YSI: MIND OVER MEDIA

As part of the Young Social Innovators (YSI) programme, a passionate group of students launched their project titled "Mind Over Media", focusing on the complex link between social media use and mental health. To gather real insights, the students designed and distributed a school-wide questionnaire, asking their peers about their social media habits, the apps they use most, their daily screen time and the impact of social media on their emotional wellbeing. To add a broader perspective, teachers and school staff were also interviewed, offering valuable adult viewpoints on the issue. In an effort to support young people's mental health beyond the school walls, the students chose to raise awareness and funds for Jigsaw, a vital mental health service offering both in-person and online therapy for young people aged 12–25. Notably, Jigsaw has a local branch in Tipperary, making it especially relevant to the students' community. To raise funds, the group took on a meaningful challenge: a 14km hike to Rock an Thorabh in the Galtees, a powerful symbol of their commitment to promoting mental wellness. Through this project, students not only opened important conversations about mental health but also took real action to support their peers and community.



YSI: THE FINAL WHISTLE

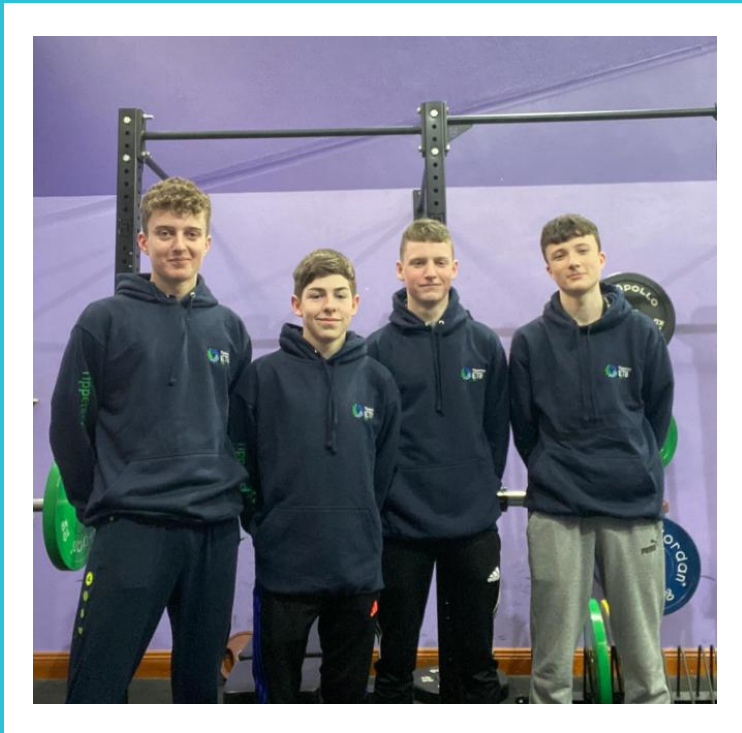
A group of dedicated students took part in the Young Social Innovators (YSI) initiative, focusing their project on Sudden Adult Death Syndrome (SADS), a critical issue affecting young athletes. Their aim was to raise awareness and promote preventative measures, inspired by the mission of The Dillon Quirke Foundation, which seeks to have all young athletes screened for underlying heart conditions. As part of their campaign, the students presented their project, including an engaging and informative role play at the YSI event in Kilkenny. Their work didn't stop at raising awareness; they also took action to support the cause. Through creative fundraising efforts such as a Donut Day, Long Puck Competition, and a Jersey Day, they successfully raised funds for the Dillon Quirke Foundation. Additionally, the team visited Junior Cycle SPHE classes to educate their peers on: what SADS is and how it affects young people, how to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and The exact locations of AEDs on the school campus. Their project not only raised money but also empowered their school community with life-saving knowledge and skills.



TY

ST. ANNE'S COOKERY CLASS

Our TY students recently had the fantastic opportunity to visit St. Anne's for a cookery class with the wonderful Ms. Joanne Donnelly. The session began with an introduction to the kitchen and equipment, ensuring the boys felt confident and safe in the space. Ms. Donnelly then guided them through a step-by-step recipe to create a delicious chicken curry, teaching them valuable culinary skills along the way. To top it all off, the students also got the chance to make a sweet treat—freshly baked cookies for dessert! A huge thank you to St. Anne's for so generously allowing us to use their facilities, and to Ms. Donnelly for her time, guidance, and warm welcome.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

A number of our TY students had the opportunity to participate in a Tipperary ETB taster session this week on the introduction to Sport, Conditioning, and Coaching, held at the The Canon Hayes Recreation Centre. Over the course of the two days, students gained valuable insights into the world of sports science and coaching, engaging in hands-on activities and learning essential skills in conditioning. A huge thanks to Tipperary ETB for facilitating such an enjoyable and informative experience for our students. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to explore this area of study and expand their knowledge.

TY

PANCAKE TUESDAY

Students had great fun celebrating Pancake Tuesday with a hands-on cookery demonstration. Teachers kicked off the session by showing students how to make the perfect pancake batter, and soon after, the students took to the pans themselves. Some opted for thin, classic crepes, others whipped up fluffy American-style pancakes, and a few adventurous chefs created a bit of both! A variety of delicious toppings were laid out, from fresh fruit and chocolate spread to lemon and sugar, allowing everyone to customise their creations. After the cooking was done, students sat down together to enjoy their pancakes, making it a fun and social experience as well as a tasty one.



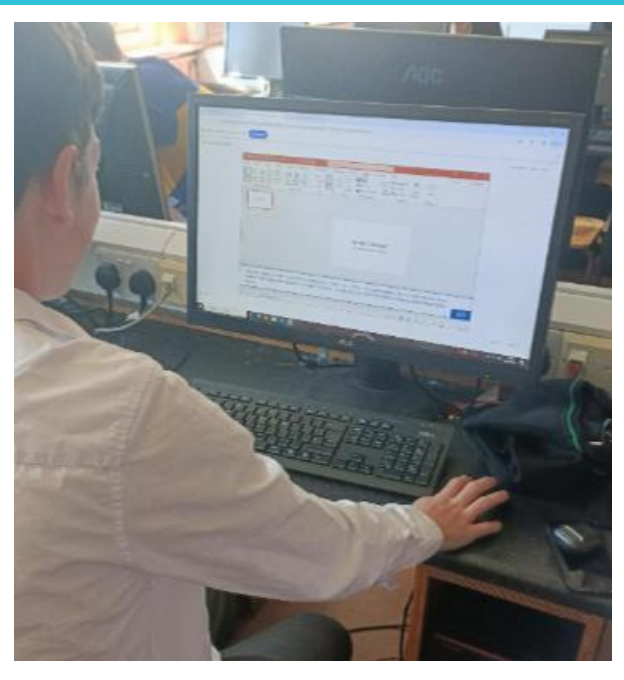
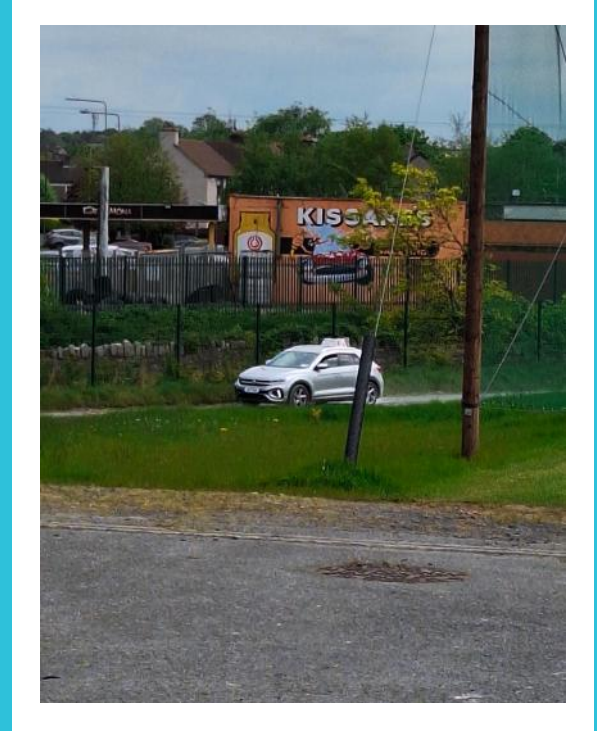
ST. BRIGID'S CROSS

As part of a wonderful cultural activity, our TY and Second Year students recently came together to make St. Brigid's Crosses – a traditional Irish craft that connects us to our rich heritage. The St. Brigid's Cross, typically made from rushes or straw, is associated with protection and blessing for the home, and is traditionally hung above doorways on the feast of St. Brigid, February 1st. This custom dates back to old Ireland, blending both Christian and pre-Christian traditions, where Brigid was honoured as a symbol of spring, renewal, and fertility. Students carefully wove the rushes into the iconic four-armed design, learning not only the skill of the craft but also the story and symbolism behind it. What a great traditional skill to learn – one that brings history to life through hands-on experience and shared creativity.

TY

DRIVING LESSONS

Our TY students were given the fantastic opportunity to get their first start on the road right here at The Abbey School, with driving lessons conducted on our very own driving course. Early engagement with road safety and driving skills is crucial in helping students become better, more responsible drivers. By starting lessons at this stage, students can build confidence and gain essential skills that will benefit them for years to come, ensuring they understand the importance of safety, awareness, and road rules from the beginning. In addition to the practical driving lessons, students also had the chance to practice for their theory test, further reinforcing their knowledge of the road. This comprehensive approach to learning about driving not only prepares students for the practicalities of driving but also fosters a greater sense of responsibility when it comes to road safety.



ICDL TRAINING

TY students completed their ICDL (International Computer Driving Licence) training this term- a significant achievement that sets them up for success in both education and the workplace. As we move towards a more technology-driven education system and employment landscape, equipping students with essential digital skills is more important than ever. The ICDL programme empowers students with practical knowledge in areas such as word processing, spreadsheets, online collaboration, cybersecurity, and IT fundamentals. These are not only vital for academic work – from research and presentations to managing digital coursework – but are also highly valued by employers across all sectors. Being proficient in these areas gives students a competitive edge, improves their confidence, and fosters a sense of independence when navigating digital environments. In a world where digital literacy is fast becoming a core requirement, ICDL ensures our students are not just keeping up, but leading the way.

TY

NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN

Our our Transition Year students proudly took part in National Spring Clean 2025, collecting over 15 bags of rubbish from around our town. This initiative is just one example of how The Abbey instils a strong sense of civic responsibility in our students. At The Abbey, we believe that education extends beyond the classroom. Through active participation in local clean-ups, charity fundraisers, community outreach, and environmental awareness projects, our students learn that they have the power and the duty to positively shape the world around them. We see civic engagement not only as a responsibility but as a cornerstone of good citizenship. Events like this teach valuable life lessons about respect for the community, care for the environment, and the impact of small actions. Well done to our TY students and all staff involved for leading by example and taking real ownership of their role in the community.



TY

CARLINGFORD

Our TY students recently enjoyed a fun-filled three-day trip to the Adventure Centre in Carlingford. The trip was packed with exciting activities, giving the students a chance to challenge themselves, build teamwork skills, and make lasting memories with their peers. From adventurous outdoor challenges to team-building exercises, everyone had a fantastic time embracing new experiences and stepping out of their comfort zones. It was a perfect way to bond and enjoy the great outdoors while developing essential skills for both personal and academic growth.



TY

FIRE MARSHALL TRAINING

Our TY students recently took part in Fire Marshal Training, provided by the local Tipperary Fire Brigade. A Fire Marshal is a trained individual responsible for ensuring safety during a fire emergency. Their role involves conducting fire drills, ensuring that safety protocols are followed, and guiding people to safety if an emergency arises. Fire Marshals are also trained to use fire extinguishers and other firefighting equipment, and they play a key part in helping to prevent fire hazards in the workplace or other environments. This training not only gave our students a valuable skill set but also raised their awareness of fire safety procedures, which could prove essential in any emergency situation. A big thank you to the Tipperary Fire Brigade for their expert guidance and for providing such an important learning experience.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

At The Abbey, we are proud to welcome students from various countries who come here to experience life and learning in Ireland, whether for a few weeks or for an entire academic year. Recently, these international students had the opportunity to join our Transition Year students on their walk to Rock an Tharobh in the Galtees, where they were treated to the breath-taking scenery of the Irish countryside. It was a wonderful moment for all involved, as they shared a sense of connection not only with each other, but with the stunning environment around them. Opportunities like this are a reminder of the value of cultural exchange and shared experiences. It's a privilege to be able to offer our international students the chance to explore the beauty that surrounds us, while also deepening the sense of community within our school.

TY

TY LIONS CLUB STUDENT

We are incredibly proud to announce that James O Dwyer has been awarded the TY Lions Club Student of the Year in recognition of his outstanding contribution throughout the year. James truly embodies the Edmund Rice ethos, demonstrating kindness, leadership, and a willingness to help. Whether it was participating in school initiatives, or supporting his peers, James was always there. His commitment to personal growth, academic progress, and community involvement is fantastic. James consistently showed up with enthusiasm and integrity, making a lasting impact on his TY year group. This award is a well-deserved recognition of his hard work, positive attitude, and willingness to get involved in every aspect of TY life.



CINEMA TRIP

The Transition Year students were recently treated to a cinema trip to see Thunderbolts at the Excel Theatre. The outing was a welcome change of pace and an opportunity for students to enjoy a social, shared experience outside of the classroom. The TY programme at The Abbey is about more than books and assignments, it's about broadening horizons, experiencing culture, and learning through a variety of enriching activities. Trips like these remind us that education comes in many forms, and sometimes the biggest lessons are the ones that happen outside the classroom.



OUR SCHOOL CREST

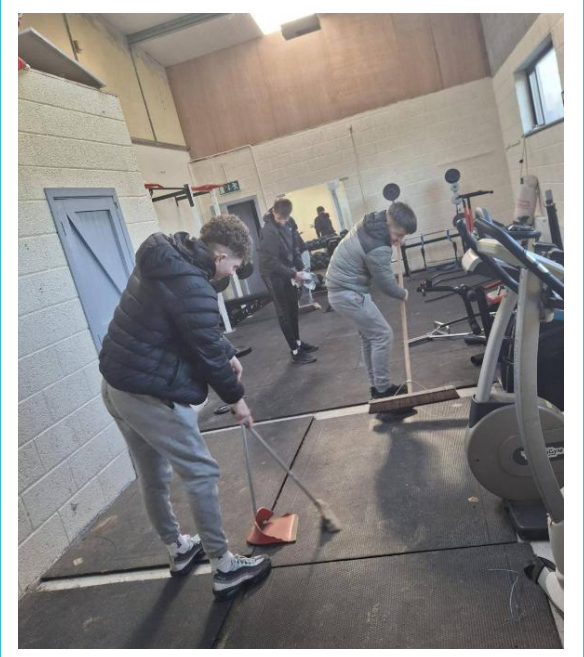
Our Transition Year students recently undertook a special project: recreating the school crest on wood to be proudly displayed in the GP Room. They used a projector to cast the crest onto the wood, skilfully tracing and detailing the image by hand. The finished piece is a striking representation of their effort and school spirit. More than just a decoration, this crest will serve as a lasting symbol of our connection to Edmund Rice and the core values he championed—faith, inclusion, and community.



TY

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Well done to six of our Transition Year students who completed a successful week of Community Work Experience with Galtee Rovers St Pecaun's. Their involvement reflects the true spirit of giving back and the importance of being active participants in their local community. Community service like this is about more than just gaining work experience, it aligns deeply with The Abbey's ethos of respect, responsibility, and active citizenship. It fosters empathy, teamwork, and a sense of purpose, while helping students to build meaningful connections with people in their community, develop key life skills and a strong work ethic and understand the value of volunteering and grassroots support in local clubs and organisations. This experience gave our students the chance to make a real difference, contributing their time and energy to a club that plays a vital role in the life of the community. It also helps them to see how they can continue to be involved and give back long after school. A big thank you to Galtee Rovers St Pecaun's for welcoming our students and giving them such a valuable experience. And congratulations again to our TYs for representing The Abbey with pride and purpose!



TY MINI MED PROGRAMME

A group of Transition Year students from The Abbey had the fantastic opportunity to take part in the RCSI TY MiniMed and associated programmes, including MiniPharm, MiniScience, and MiniPhysio. These highly-regarded annual programmes are run by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and offer students an invaluable glimpse into the world of healthcare and medical sciences. Participation in these programmes is a fantastic way for TY students to deepen their understanding of the healthcare field, and for many, it can be the spark that ignites a future career in medicine or science. A huge well done to all who took part.

TY

SUBJECT CHOICE FAIR

The 5th Year students at The Abbey recently hosted an informative and interactive Subject Choice Fair for Transition Year (TY) students, offering valuable insights to help them make informed decisions about their Leaving Cert subject choices. During the fair, TY students had the opportunity to ask 5th Year students about their experiences in each subject, including what the course content is like, the workload and assessment methods and how each subject aligns with future career goals. This peer-led approach was an excellent way for TY students to gain real, first-hand advice from those who have already gone through the decision-making process. It allowed them to better understand the pros and cons of different subjects, providing them with the confidence to choose the best subjects for their interests and aspirations. The Subject Choice Fair reflects The Abbey's commitment to student empowerment and helping each student make choices that will support their academic and career goals. A big thank you to our 5th Year students for hosting such an insightful and supportive event!



TY GRAD

TY GRADUATION

The school community recently celebrated the graduation of this year's Transition Year students- a significant milestone marking their progression into the senior cycle. Transition Year is a unique and formative experience, offering students the chance to step outside the traditional academic structure and engage in a broad range of activities designed to develop life skills, independence, and self-awareness. Over the past year, these students have embraced opportunities for growth through work experience, community involvement, project-based learning, and personal development. Along the way, they have formed strong friendships, discovered new interests, and gained the confidence that will support them in the years ahead. As they now move into the senior cycle, students will begin to specialise in subjects that reflect their individual strengths, talents, and ambitions. This is a time for them to explore their academic passions more deeply, find their niche, and begin shaping their own unique paths in life. Whether their future lies in science, the arts, business, technology, or another field, the choices they make now will lay the foundation for their careers and personal aspirations. The Abbey is immensely proud of this group of young people and all they have achieved during Transition Year. Staff and teachers alike look forward to witnessing their continued development- both academically and socially- as they prepare for the challenges and opportunities of the Leaving Certificate and beyond. Transition Year has been, for many, a transformative and enriching experience. The whole school community congratulates all the students on reaching this important milestone and wishes them every success in the exciting journey ahead.



TEARMAINN



TEARMAINN

We are thrilled to announce the opening of Tearmainn, our Special Class for Autistic students, designed to provide extra support and ensure that every student can fully engage with their school experience. This dedicated space offers a range of tailored activities to support students' social, emotional, and academic development, including structured mentoring, life skills lessons, cooking and baking classes, and much more. The classroom is designed to provide a sanctuary for our students, with quiet areas furnished with beanbags for relaxation and a kitchenette where they can have breakfast or prepare a hot lunch. Tearmainn is only able to run effectively thanks to the dedication of our incredible core team, including our SNAs Josephine, Conor, Annette, Vivienne, Tara, Marie, and Evan, as well as the SEN team, the Coordinator, and SENCO, Ms. Kay O'Dwyer. We are also incredibly grateful to all the key teachers who make a genuine effort to build strong, positive relationships with our special class students, ensuring they feel supported, happy, and safe within the school community.



TEARMAINN

COOKERY AND BAKING

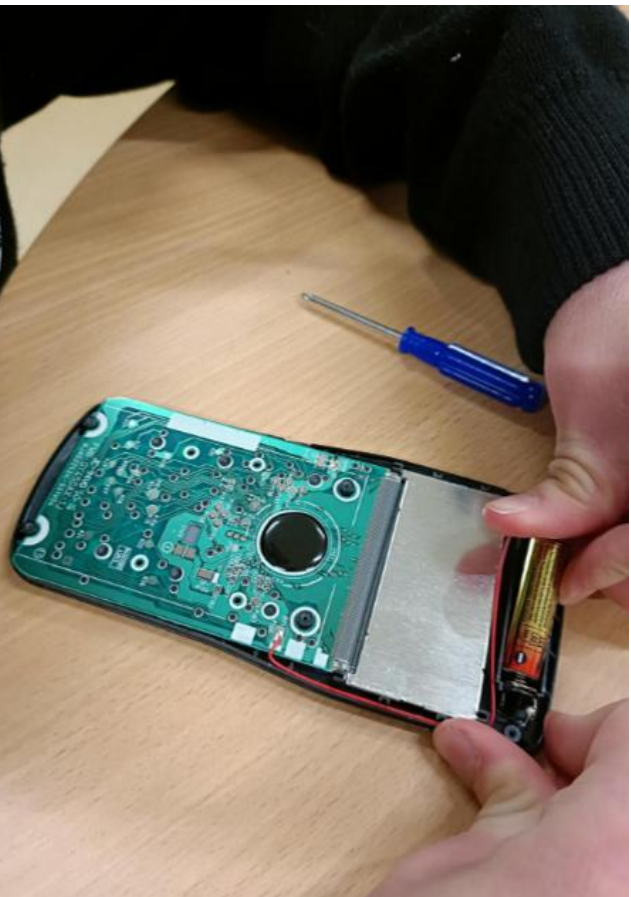
Students in the special class recently teamed up with 6th year baker Jamie Byrnes and Daniel O'Dwyer for a fun and educational baking session, where they made delicious buns to enjoy at lunchtime. This collaboration with mainstream students not only gave everyone the chance to work together but also fostered inclusion within our school community. By participating in projects like this, we support our school ethos of working together, helping one another, and creating a caring and collaborative learning environment. The students had a fantastic time, learning a variety of valuable skills, such as following written instructions (including measurements), observing visual cues (like demonstrations), and improving their communication skills. Most importantly, they learned a vital life skill -baking- while strengthening relationships with their peers. It was a wonderful experience that highlighted the importance of inclusivity and teamwork. Huge thanks to Daniel and Jamie and to SNA Vivienne for facilitating this session.



TEARMAINN

MONOLOGIC LEARNING

Monologic learning for autistic students is a teaching approach that involves designing learning activities based on a specific interest or passion of the student. By focusing on something that captures the student's attention, this method helps to regulate their emotions and improve their focus. When students engage in activities related to their personal interests, they are more likely to feel motivated, comfortable, and engaged in the learning process. This not only helps with emotional regulation but also offers an opportunity to teach important skills in a way that feels relevant and meaningful to the student. In our special class, we recognise that each student has unique interests, and we make it a priority to explore these interests during free time and lunchtime. Whether it's through a hands-on activity, discussion, or independent exploration, we encourage students to connect with what excites them. This approach not only supports their emotional well-being but also fosters a positive and enjoyable learning experience, allowing them to develop new skills in a way that feels natural and engaging. By embracing these individual interests, we create an inclusive environment where students feel understood and supported, making learning both fun and effective.



TEARMAINN

OTHER PROJECTS

These are other projects that the students using Tearmainn made this year. We encourage our students to be creative in their free time and we definitely have some very talented students in our midst. Well done to everyone and to the SNAs who support the students during this time.



SPORT

CROSS COUNTRY

The Abbey School Cross Country teams enjoyed great success this year. Having not participated in cross country events for many years, the school was delighted to enter teams at Minor and Junior boy's level. At the county cross country event in Thurles in November, the boys from the Abbey school put in a tremendous effort and each team won team bronze medals. Onto the SETU Sports Complex in Waterford for the East Munster Schools. A major step up in class. Nonetheless, the minor boys, with a demonstration of quality, grit and resilience qualified as the 3rd place team, again coming away with the bronze medal. The junior boys team also performed superbly on the day but unfortunately did not make the medals on the day. The Munster Cross Country Championships took place in Tramore Valley Park in Cork with some of the best athletes in Ireland competing. The Abbey School minor boys team performed with their now customary determination and finished 7th team in Munster. A fantastic achievement for these boys given the depth of quality in the race. Well done to all who competed this year in Cross Country.



SPORT

BASKETBALL

Our First and Second Year basketball teams gave it their all in two energetic and exciting matches against Coláiste Mhuire, but unfortunately came up just short on the day. While the results didn't go our way, the performances on court reflected just how far basketball has come in The Abbey. Basketball continues to grow in popularity among students and now plays an important role in the school's sporting life. It brings a new energy and variety to the existing sports programme, offering students another outlet to develop teamwork, discipline, and athletic skill. A huge thank you to Mr. Carew, whose commitment and dedication to the sport has been central to its development in the school. The recent addition of new basketball hoops in the Sports Hall marks another exciting step forward. With better facilities and growing student interest, basketball in The Abbey is set to go from strength to strength.



DARTS

We're excited to announce that darts will be introduced as a new sport in The Abbey starting next year! There has already been strong interest from students, and it's clear the sport is gaining real momentum. With darts growing in popularity across schools, many have started setting up internal competitions and even inter-school leagues. The Abbey is looking forward to getting involved in the action and giving students another great opportunity to compete, develop skills, and enjoy a new sport in a fun and supportive environment.

SPORT

SOCCER

The Abbey's U17 soccer team had a memorable term, beginning with a hard-fought 1-0 victory over CBS Charleville. The decisive goal came from Darragh Bresnan, whose strike secured the win in what was a tightly contested match. The entire team delivered a superb performance, showcasing determination and teamwork throughout the game. Their journey continued to the Munster Colleges Under 17 "A" Semi-Final, where they faced a strong Midleton CBS side. Despite a spirited effort from our players, Midleton proved the better team on the day, scoring four goals and ending the Abbey's run in the competition. While the semi-final result was disappointing, the team has shown great promise and potential. With many of the squad returning next year, we're confident this group will come back stronger and make a big impact in future competitions. Their commitment to training and positive team spirit have laid a strong foundation for success. The experience gained this season will no doubt serve them well as they continue to grow and develop as a team.



SPORT

FOOTBALL

Our U15 Footballers kicked off their Munster Championship campaign with an impressive 4-11 to 1-9 victory over CBS High School in Clonmel. A brilliant start from a promising young team! Massive congratulations to our Senior Football Team on clinching the County A Football Final with a commanding 3-15 to 1-5 win over Cashel. The skill and teamwork on display were exceptional. A heartfelt thank you to the management team—your dedication and hard work in developing this squad are deeply appreciated. Our First Years also enjoyed a fantastic outing at the Football Blitz held at TUS Limerick, an event run by 2nd Year college students—some of whom are proud Abbey alumni! We're excited to watch these young players grow and develop their talents in the seasons ahead.



SPORT

HURLING

The past year has been a remarkable one for hurling in the Abbey, with teams at every level showcasing talent, determination, and sportsmanship. The U15 team led the way with an impressive victory in the Corn Sheamais Mhic Ghabann Munster Cup, defeating their opponents with a commanding scoreline of 3-17 to 1-13. Their performance was marked by skillful play and great team spirit. At U17 level, the Abbey triumphed in a nail-biting clash against Cistercian College, Roscrea. After extra time, the team emerged victorious with a score of 1-18 to 1-14, demonstrating resilience and composure under pressure. The U19 team also delivered a spirited performance in their encounter with the High School, Clonmel. Despite a narrow defeat (2-17 to 2-14), the match was a showcase of high-quality hurling and admirable effort from all involved. Meanwhile, the 5th Year 5-a-side tournament was a highlight of the calendar, filled with intense competition and camaraderie. Congratulations to CBS High School, who came out on top in a thrilling day of matches. The Abbey was proud to host the prestigious Rice Cup Blitz, welcoming eight teams to campus. Our own side capped off the day with a strong win over Nenagh CBS. A huge thank you and well done to all the dedicated staff and coaches who guided and supported our players throughout the season. Their hard work has been instrumental in developing the next generation of hurling talent.



SPORT

RUGBY

Rugby has firmly established itself as one of the most successful and celebrated sports at The Abbey in recent years. This year was no exception, with all teams performing strongly and continuing to develop their skills and understanding of the game. Our U18 team delivered standout performances earlier this term, recording impressive victories over CBS High School and St. Declan's. Their teamwork and dedication were evident throughout the season. The U15 side also put in a tremendous effort during the Cleary Cup campaign. Their commitment on the pitch was matched by the unwavering support off it, a special word of thanks goes to Davy Kinahan for his outstanding work and guidance with the team throughout the year. As we look ahead to the new season, there's a real sense of excitement around the emergence of new talent. The future of rugby in The Abbey is bright, and we look forward to welcoming the next generation of players. A huge thanks must also go to Ms. O Mahoney and Ms. Ryan for their efforts.



SPORT

ABBHEY SCHOOL GYM

Our GAA Strength & Conditioning (S&C) programme began last term with baseline testing of our Transition Year and 5th Year students in our new, state-of-the-art gym facility. This was soon followed by testing for our 2nd and 3rd Year students. All groups began their tailored training programmes after the midterm break, with plans set to run right through to September. The overarching goal of this initiative is to enhance the athletic performance of our students. We aim to increase their chances of earning selection for representative honours with development and county squads, while also strengthening our school teams across all age groups in preparation for the 2025 season. The new gym facility is a hugely significant addition to the school's sporting infrastructure. It provides our students with access to top-level training equipment in a structured and supportive environment. Beginning this term, the gym will be made available to students each morning before school via a dedicated timetable. These sessions will be supervised by our Sports teachers, who will offer expert guidance on training plans, proper technique, and injury prevention. This combination of a high-quality facility, structured programming, and professional supervision marks an exciting step forward for sport in our school, and we look forward to seeing the long-term benefits both on and off the field.





SPORTS

20





DAY 25





SPORTS

20





AWARDS

25





As summer arrives, it brings with it a well-deserved break; a time to step away from the classrooms, books, and busy corridors of The Abbey, and step into the slower rhythm of sunshine, fresh air, and freedom. It's a season for rest, for adventure, for reconnecting with friends and family, and for discovering new parts of yourself outside the school walls.

Whether you're travelling, working, training, or simply enjoying the long evenings, take time to appreciate the little moments. Be safe, be kind, and make choices that you'll be proud of. The Abbey will be waiting for you in August- refreshed, renewed, and ready for another chapter.

Until then, enjoy every bit of summer's gift.