

Scoil Aireagail Newsletter



Christmas 2023

PRINCIPAL HELEN MCTIGHE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear parents/guardians and students,

As the Christmas holidays approach, we are filled with warmth, joy, and the spirit of anticipation. It is also a time for reflection, celebration, and setting the stage for a promising new year.

I hope you enjoy reading all about our students' learning experiences and achievements in this edition of our school newsletter. We are particularly focusing on the themes of Attendance and Motivation during this school year, recognizing that these qualities are the cornerstones of success in school.

Attendance Matters

The gift of education is one that keeps on giving, and regular attendance is the key to unlocking its full potential. As we approach the end of the calendar year, it's essential to emphasize the significance of consistent attendance. Just as each day on a calendar contributes to the passing of time, every day of learning contributes to your child's progress in school.

Consistent attendance ensures that students don't miss out on valuable lessons, classroom discussions, and collaborative activities. It fosters a sense of routine and responsibility, teaching students the importance of commitment and dedication.

The best gifts often come in the form of small, consistent efforts that add up to significant achievements.

Fostering Motivation

Motivation is the fuel that propels students toward success. It is the driving force behind hard work, perseverance, and a positive attitude.

Encourage your child to set realistic goals for the remainder of the school year. Whether it's mastering a challenging subject, completing a CBA, or participating in extracurricular activities, the sense of accomplishment derived from achieving these goals can be a powerful motivator.

As we celebrate this season of joy, let's also celebrate the commitment to education and the journey of growth that our students are on. By prioritising attendance and motivation, we are laying the foundation for a bright and successful future.

I wish you all a safe and peaceful Christmas.

Warm regards,

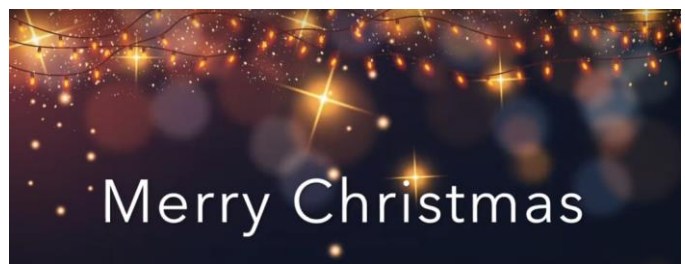
Helen McTighe

Tuesday Tunes (Christmas Edition)

We have all been enjoying the 'Tuesday Tunes' music slot where each week our MUSIC students record a live performance. 'Tuesday Tunes' showcases the amazing musical talent in our school. For our final song of this year in our Tuesday Tunes series, we have a

fabulous and beautiful rendition of Lily Allen's

'Somewhere only we know'. A huge thanks and well done to each and every one of the students that participated in our Tuesday Tunes series since September. Scan the QR code to view.





STUDENT LEADERSHIP



Interview with our 6th Year Prefect Kieran Crowley

What skills do you need for your position as school prefect?

From my experience, it is very important **to have a strong work ethic** in my position as a prefect. Hard work is engrained into the ethos of this school and therefore it is critical for a school prefect to exhibit such behavior. It is also important to have effective communication skills for interacting with fellow students or delivering speeches in front of the school.



Do you have any advice for younger students?

I would advise younger students to try their best each day in school and to look at the bigger picture, **school is there to help you grow** not to hinder you. I think it is equally important to **participate in extracurricular activities and sports** because it is also very important, not only to develop academically in school, but also emotionally and socially. I always found that playing sport and doing something I enjoyed at school helped to reduce stress and allowed me to enjoy my years at Scoil Aireagail.

If you could tell your first year self anything, what would it be?

Looking back on my time in first year, I think I would tell myself to get to know other students from different primary school groups. It is important to expand your horizons and leave your comfort zone. I remember being quite daunted by the new environment and all the new faces so if you feel comfortable talking to most people in your year, you will be more confident and relaxed coming to school each day.

How were you chosen for the position as student prefect?

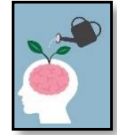
I had to apply at the end of fifth year for the role. I submitted a form where I outlined why I thought I would be suitable for the position. Then teachers read through all the application forms, and they decided to make me a school prefect.

What has been your favourite memory so far in Scoil Aireagail?

That's a hard question because there are **so many good memories**. I really enjoyed the whole of TY because there were so many excellent trips and activities such as the trip to Delphi at the end of the year. However, I think the best memory of all was our **trip to Rome** last year and spending a few days **experiencing a different culture** with my classmates. It is experiences like those that are the most precious because I will always have those **positive memories of Scoil Aireagail** long after I leave the school.



EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



Senior Irish students' trip to see An Triail

On Thursday our senior students travelled to the Axis theatre Ballymun to see Fíabín's latest production of Máiréad Ní Ghrádas famous drama An Triail. Gaeilge was the spoken language of the day and the students returned with a greater understanding of how difficult life was in the 1960s for single, unmarried mothers. Although a very sad drama, there was plenty to laugh at throughout. Míle buíochas do chách.



Les étudiants en année de transition a organisé une chasse au trésor

Jeudi le 16 Novembre les étudiants en année de transition a organisé une chasse au trésor pour les étudiants en deuxième année. Les indices étaient en français, et en petits groupes les élèves ont travaillé ensemble pour trouver les réponses. C'était une expérience agréable pour nos étudiants. Merci beaucoup aux étudiants en année de transition pour l'organisation.



6th Years explore career options in SETU and WCFE

6th years enjoyed the SETU and WCFE open days in Waterford on Friday 10th November. They had the opportunity to visit the campuses, talk to lecturers and research their college and career paths.



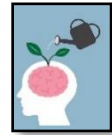
History students learn about the life of Rosa Parks

This month in History class students learned about the life of Rosa Parks and her role in the Civil Rights Movement. They listened to a song about the bus boycott, watched a short biography of her life and completed a mind map. To check their learning students completed a crossword. Two of our students were rewarded for having the most correct answers.



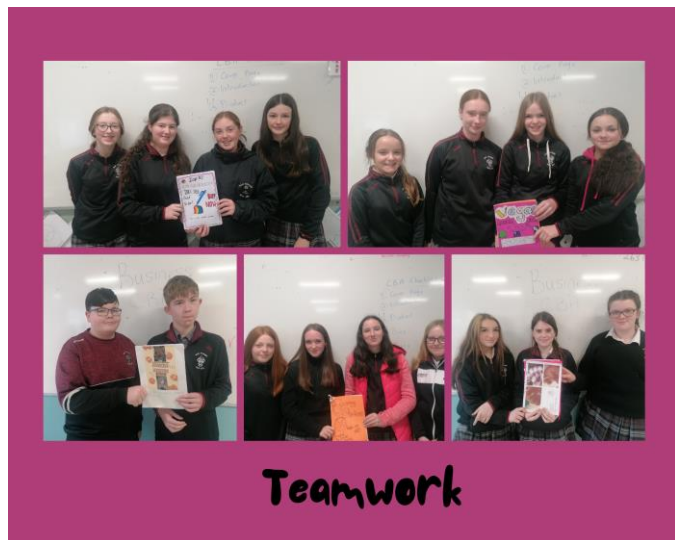


EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



2nd Year Business Studies students develop their teamwork and communication skills

Our 2nd Year Business students have been very busy this term completing their first Junior Cycle Classroom Based Assessment (CBA). The task involved students working in groups to develop an idea for a new product. Once they had their idea they then conducted market research- both field research and desk research. The next step was to put together an action plan which involved developing the marketing mix for their new products. There was a fantastic mix of innovative product ideas including a sliotar with an inbuilt tracker, a pen which can change colour by simply pointing at a colour of your choice, and a nail varnish that was both sustainable and vegan friendly. Students developed many key skills during this project including working with others, communication skills, problem solving and time management to name but a few. Well done to all.



Evening Study

Block 3 of evening study will run from Monday 8th January to Thursday 21st March inclusive. The cost of supervised evening study is €120 for this 10 week period. The Evening Study Programme is an ideal opportunity for students to develop a good study routine and avail of a quiet distraction free environment to maximize their study time regarding doing their homework and study. This is of immense benefit to all students to assist with their individual learning and completion of school related tasks. Structured supervised study is an integral part of any students' success.

Six Scoil Aireagail Art students win prizes in the Credit Union art competition

Congratulations to six students in 2nd year art class who won prizes in the Credit Union art competition. They created fabulous work to the theme 'My Community' and last month were presented with their prize winnings in Thomastown Credit Union. Well done to all students. It was a great success for Scoil Aireagail Art.



Scoil Aireagail

Weekly Activities

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
18th December • Choir. • Whist lessons- Mullinavat Active Retirement. • U19 Badminton Trials. • Ty Subject Choice Talk.	19th December • Tuesday Tunes. • Chess club. • Ty subject choice talk. • 2nd, 3rd and 5th Year Ice skating.	20th December • Christmas Jumper Day. • Christmas Carols. • Table Quiz.
Thursday	Friday	
21st December • Junior Girls FAI Soccer Semi final.	22nd December • Happy Christmas.	

Excellence in Education

Care
Equality
Community
Respect

Ballyhale, Kilkenny
R95AH30

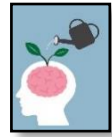
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EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



Blast, Arts in Education

Continuing our Arts in education programme with artist Sheila Jordon, this term 2nd year art students learned how to throw clay. Sheila is an experienced Ceramics Artist, she showed students how to use the clay wheel to make a clay pot. Students got a chance to try it for themselves and learned that it's a lot harder than it looks but also a lot of fun. Scan the QR code to view.



TTRS Typing Program

Some of our 2nd Year students have started using the TTRS typing programme which teaches touch-typing, reading and spelling. TTRS stands for Touch-type Read and Spell and is an award-winning multi-sensory typing program where students can both improve their computer skills and strengthen their spelling at the same time. Thanks to the Kilkenny County Library Service for granting Scoil Aireagail students with the licenses needed to access the program.



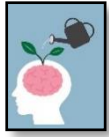
Marbh le tae agus marbh gan é! Dead with tea and dead without it!



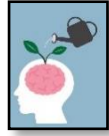
CEO of the HSA visits Scoil Aireagail

Mark Cullen, Assistant CEO of the HSA visited our TY students and informed them about the function of the HSA Agency, and for Careers Week outlined to students the career opportunities within the HSA and within the Health and Safety Sector. More info on www.hsa.ie





EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



1st Year French and Music students sing Vive le vent (jingle bells)

Our first year music class and first year French class collaborated recently where the students sang and played Vive le vent (jingle bells). Merci bien Madame Rowe. Click the QR code to view



Science week 2023

Our budding Scientists had a busy week for Science Week 2023. Just some of the many activities that took place included our 1st years completing a marshmallow and spaghetti STEM Challenge, 2nd years growing mould and completing a scavenger hunt, 3rd years growing vegetables in the classroom and attending a Planetary System talk. Our Senior students also joined in the fun and made edible DNA, completed quizzes, made ooblecks and tested the quality of various milk samples.



TY students qualify for the 2024 BT Young Scientists Exhibition

TY students Winnie McDonagh and Sophia Colclough have qualified for the 2024 BT Young Scientists Exhibition. Their project is titled 'How Covid-19 affected the developmental stage and mental-health of secondary school pupils aged 14 - 17'. Their project is submitted under a new category of Health and Wellbeing. The BT Young Scientists Exhibition will be taking place in the RDS in Dublin from January 10th to 13th 2024.



KCETB Music Collaboration

Well done to two of our 1st Year music students who took part in a musical collaboration on 'Winter Song' by Sara Bareilles with other ETB schools in Kilkenny and Carlow.





EXTRACURRICULAR



Junior Hurling team compete in the Leinster schools final

Our junior hurlers had a fantastic term and competed in the Leinster school's competition. They had a great win over Grennan College in the Leinster schools quarter final in Ballyhale. In the game our backs were excellent throughout, midfield was well on top and forwards were in prolific form with Conor Holohan and Sam Mansfield particularly impressive. All members of the squad got game time which is a key feature of sport in Scoil Aireagail.

Next, the hurlers travelled down to Adamstown in Wexford to play the Leinster schools semi-final against Coláiste Abbain. The first half was a tight affair, and we lead at the break by one point 1-8 to 1-7. We got completely on top in the 2nd half and won by a scoreline of 3-15 to 1-8. Well done to all the panel on a great performance.

Finally, it wasn't to be for our junior hurlers as we were defeated by Coláiste Íoságain in Durrow last Thursday in the Leinster schools final. The match was played in extremely difficult conditions and every ball was hard fought. We started brightly and lead by 1-6 to 0-7 at the break. The goal scored by Adam Franks. The second half continued in the same vein, but goals win games as they say and unfortunately Coláiste Íoságain got them each time it looked like we were going to pull away. The game was level with three minutes to play but the opposition's superior size and strength told in those last few minutes with a match winning point followed by a goal to see them home on a scoreline of 3-10 to 1-12. All our panel should be proud of themselves for the skill and determination they showed throughout the year. Scorers on the day were Adam Franks 1-3, Matthew Murphy 0-3, Liam O Grady 0-3, Cian Franks 0-2 and Cathal Coogan 0-1.



Senior Hurling

Scoil Aireagail Senior hurlers had a convincing victory over Kildare Community School in Pairc na Sheamrog recently. On a cool day the lads took a while to warm to the occasion, leading 0-9 to 1-1 at half time. They had most possession throughout the game but found it difficult to get scores in the first half. They relaxed into the game in the second half and ran away convincing winners against an physical Kildare side. Sam Mansfield, John Somers, Michael Catt Matthew Murphy and Cathal Coogan were the stand out performers, while Adam Franks was unmarkable throughout in a solid team performance, where we won 3-18 to 1-1.



Junior Camogie victory

Scoil Aireagail Junior camogie team had another emphatic victory recently in the Leinster Premier Camogie Championship. St Leo's Carlow travelled to Ballyhale for their match where the home side proved far too strong, running out comprehensive winners on a score line of 5.10 to 0.00. The Scoil Aireagail girls deserve huge credit for a fantastic performance where incredible skill and work rate were seen in abundance. Scorers were Leah Davis 2.03, Saoirse Walsh 1.02, Cara Coogan 0.04, Amelia Jenner 1.00 and Megan Walsh 1.01.





EXTRACURRICULAR



Senior Camogie

On December 2nd last, on a very cold and frosty day, Scoil Aireagail's Senior Camogie team took on the combined Duiske /Colaiste Pobail Osraí Team in Larchfield pitch Kilkenny. The Scoil Aireagail girls worked extremely hard from the start and an excellent delivery from Cara Coogan saw Amy O' Mahony open the scoring for her side with a rocket of a ball to the net. The tone was now set and Scoil Aireagail's girls continued to dominate all sectors with some fine displays from Ruth Cass and Abbie O' Keeffe in the forwards. Huge credit must go to the center back line of Emma Walsh, Amy Prendergast and Caoimhe Corcoran who continued to work tirelessly all day. Tara Duggan was excellent in goal, pulling off an incredible save in the second half. She was given great assistance from her full back Sienna Drennan who was determined to stop every attack. Forwards were on fire as usual driven on by the incredible Emma Dempsey. Well done girls. Scoil Aireagail abú. Scoil Aireagail 9.03-Duiske/Coláiste Pobail Osraí.3-02.



Senior Girls and Boys Soccer Semi Finals

On Tuesday 5th of December, both our Senior girls and boys soccer teams competed in the Kilkenny ETB soccer semi final against Kilkenny City Vocational School in Knocktopher.

Our girls march on with another emphatic win. Dominating the game from start to finish, the Scoil Aireagail team showcased the immense depth of talent in the squad with every player playing a part in the game whilst putting up an impressive final score of 8-0. Player of the match was Amy Prendergast who showed her experience and leadership dominating the game for large periods. Congratulations to all involved and best of luck in the final after the Christmas break!

Unfortunately, the boys did not have the same success. They started brightly scoring early on through talisman Joseph Aylward but the game quickly changed as KCVS scored two goals during a spell of dominance just before and after the half time break. The final period of the game was a hard fought battle and it really felt like our boys deserved an equaliser. However, it was not to be as the game finished 2-1. Ciaran Holden and Jack Walsh Raggett deserve special mentions as their performances were excellent.



 Scoil_Aireagail

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EXTRACURRICULAR



Junior Girls Soccer FAI Cup Quarter Final victory

Our junior girls soccer team FAI cup run continues after a fantastic 4-2 victory over Coláiste Ghlór Na Mara of Balbriggan, Dublin on Wednesday. The girls started strong as always dominating possession and creating the most chances in the first half. This purple patch was rewarded with two goals. The first a tidy finish from Orla Sutton which was followed by an Abbie O'Keeffe headed finish to a sublime Megan Walsh corner kick. The Balbriggan girls showed tremendous determination and fought back in the second half scoring two unanswered goals leaving the game all square with only 10 minutes remaining. With their backs against the wall our girls showed fantastic resilience during the closing stages scoring two more goals. Super sub Leah Davis clinched the victory in the closing minutes to secure the team a place in the semi finals. Best of luck to the girls who will play Grange CC in Donaghmede, Dublin next Thursday 21st of December in the FAI Cup semi final.



Junior Boys Soccer

On November 30th, Scoil Aireagail's Junior Soccer team faced off against Coláiste Mhuire in the Kilkenny-Carlow Junior Soccer FAI league. The Scoil Aireagail boys worked extremely hard from start to end. There were many excellent saves in the first half by our goalkeeper, Alex. Unfortunately, Coláiste Mhuire scored two consecutive goals in the first half and the second half. Liam O'Grady and Sam Mansfield continued to work tirelessly all day, displaying their skills on the pitch. Despite the team's best efforts, Coláiste Mhuire were victorious in the end with a total

of 4-0. It was a tough match, and the team are hoping to make a comeback in their next game, which will be held in Callan against Coláiste Abhainn RÍ. Well done to the boys who all put in their best efforts.

Written by TY sports journalist Holly Long and photo by Erin Walsh Transition Year.



Kilkenny Vocational Schools County Hurling team

On Saturday 25th November, 7 students from Scoil Aireagail represented the Kilkenny Vocational Schools County Team in a hurling blitz in Dunmore in Kilkenny. In the first game they played Laois, where Laois came out on Top with some good quality players. There was an excellent display of hurling for our own lads including: Liam O Grady, Seamus Murphy and Cian Franks. Other students that played very well were Jamie Murphy and Conor Holohan. We also had two 1st Year students who came on in both games with Danny Somers and Jack Dempsey being very tight in defence. The second game saw a win for the young Kilkenny Talents with all Scoil Aireagail students getting plenty of game time in this game also. Well done to all Involved





EXTRACURRICULAR



Kilkenny Lions Club, Young Ambassador Competition
Congratulations to Patrick Dungan and Erin Walsh for qualifying for the Kilkenny Lions Club, Young Ambassador Competition 2023! They are both amazing examples of community service and leadership. Patrick participates in Mullinavat Matters organisation, improving the area with flowers and litter picks. Erin is involved in the Ballyhale community, helping out with mass, the young SVP society and local fund-raising events. We are so proud of Erin for being selected as Kilkenny's Young Ambassador on Thursday 23rd November. She will represent us in the National finals on the 21st of January. Go Erin!



Christmas Shoebox Appeal-Team Hope

Scoil Aireagail was proud to participate in Team Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal, a wonderful initiative that delivers gifts to children affected by poverty around the world. By filling a shoebox with items from the 4 W's list (write, wash, wear and wow), you can make a child smile this Christmas. Thank you to everyone who donated shoeboxes your generosity and support is sure to bring joy around the world this holiday season.



Photography Club

What a gorgeous shot of the changing leaves by Caelum Kinehan one of our third-year photography club students. He was the winner of our photo of the week contest recently. If you want to join the fun, come to our photography club on Fridays at lunch time. You might be the next winner!



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EXTRACURRICULAR



Stand Up Awareness Week

During the first week of November, we celebrated Stand Up Awareness Week, a national campaign to support LGBTQ+ youth and stand up against bullying. It's a time to celebrate diversity, inclusion and friendship in our school and community. We are proud to join Belong To and other schools, across Ireland in taking a stand for equality and respect. Let's show our solidarity and support for our LGBTQ+ friends and classmates. Remember, you are not alone, and you belong here. To celebrate Pride colours day during the week, each year group wore a different colour from the LGBTQ+ flag, showing their solidarity and support for the community. We are proud of our diversity and inclusion here in Scoil Aireagail.



Student Council Bake Sale

Thank you to all the students and parents who supported the bake sale today in Scoil Aireagail! It was a great success with happy students enjoying cookies, cupcakes, pies, and more over break. We raised over €200 for the school, which will help us fund some exciting projects and activities.



6th year and 1st years Cairdeas mentor trip to Kilkenny

On Tuesday the 5th of December our 6th year Cairdeas mentors accompanied our 1st years on a team-bonding day to Kilkenny. Students enjoyed a walk around Kilkenny castle, Christmas Shopping in McDonagh Junction and Bowling. It was a great day out and all the students really enjoyed spending the day with their friends





CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Scoil Aireagail's apple crumble is a big hit in Ballyhale

As a KCETB school Scoil Aireagail lives out its ethos of care, respect, and community, quality and excellence in education on a daily basis. Recently our school was given a generous donation of apples by our neighbour Jim Angelone. Our transition year students had a great time making delicious apple crumbles with them. We were happy to share these warm and sweet treats with the elderly people in our community. The recipients were very grateful for such delicious treats but also to just have a chat with some of the students. Thanks to all involved for such wonderful kindness and community spirit.



Creative Cluster Project

Scoil Aireagail will link together with 4 local schools to work on a creative project to bring Arts and Education together.

Over the next two years we plan to run workshops in sculpture through Lego, stop motion animation, video production and editing. Music and song writing workshops.

Our aim will be to create a short film to showcase the creativity in our locality.

This month the first of these workshops took place when some of our first year art students travelled to Duiske College, Graiguenamanagh to complete a workshop in Stop Motion Animation. We worked with students from Ballyhale and Mullinavat primary schools as well as primary boys from Graiguenamanagh and secondary students in Duiske College. Together, we created story boards for Lego animations, built sets and characters then learned to take photos and create reels for moving animations. Students learned how to use green screens and add special effects. Watch this space for our videos to follow.





CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Scoil Aireagail have teamed up with Mullinavat Active Retirement Group to set up a Whist Card Game Club. Run every Monday during lunch hour this is a great opportunity for our students to not only learn new skills but also to meet and chat with locals. They have lots of fun each week. Thanks to the Mullinavat Active Retirement Club for their commitment to and support of our students.



Scoil Aireagail Christmas Market

Our Christmas Market held last Sunday was a huge success. With 28 stalls, face painting, hair braiding, mulled wine and mince pies on offer as well as guest appearance from Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves the event brought so much festive cheer to all who came. Our TY students were also there selling products from their mini companies, together with the young SVP group who held a bucket collection to raise vital funds to support local people in our communities. There was music and carol singing, from Ms. Rowe and our music students and they were joined by 4th, 5th and 6th class students from Moin Ruadh primary school,

The Christmas Market was a resounding testament to the incredible support and camaraderie within our school and local community. The event was a tremendous success, with cheerful faces, festive stalls, and a palpable sense of holiday spirit that filled the air. Beyond the twinkling lights and delightful treats, what made this Christmas Market truly special was the strong connection forged with our local community. Families, friends, and neighbours gathered to celebrate the season, fostering a sense of togetherness and community spirit. The collaboration with local vendors and businesses not only added charm to the event but also reinforced the importance of supporting each other. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making our Christmas Market a memorable success, showcasing the magic that happens when our school community comes together. Wishing you all a joyful and festive holiday season!



Key Dates

School re-opens after Christmas Break Mon, 8th January

Block 3 Evening Study - Monday 8th Jan-Thurs 21st March inclusive

2nd Year & TY Parent Teacher Meeting Tues, 16th January

School Closed -Junior Cycle Staff Training Thurs 1st Feb

Pre Leaving Cert and Pre Junior Cycle Exams 2nd Feb - 9th Feb

School Closed(Public Holiday) Mon 5th Feb

February Mid-Term Break Mon 12th Feb - Fri 16th Feb



❄️ Merry Christmas ❄️

