

Scoil Aireagail Newsletter



Summer
2023

Principal Helen McTighe's Message

As the school year draws to a close, I feel immense gratitude for the privilege of serving as principal of Scoil Aireagail. The past school year has been filled with countless achievements, heartwarming moments, and strong bonds that have strengthened our school family.

At the heart of our success lies the spirit of community that permeates every corner of Scoil Aireagail. It is this spirit that has enabled us to create an inclusive, supportive, and nurturing environment, where every individual feels valued, respected, and empowered to grow. Our commitment to fostering a sense of belonging has been instrumental in shaping our students into confident, compassionate, and well-rounded individuals.

One of the highlights of the year has been witnessing the collective efforts of our students, staff, and parents in organizing the various end of year activities that mean so much to our school community. Whether it was our 'Aireagail Beats' music concert, our annual awards ceremony, our sports day or our Transition Year or Sixth year Graduation, there have been so many opportunities to celebrate our students' achievements and their dedication, perseverance, and team spirit. These achievements have not only brought honour to our school but have also instilled a strong sense of pride and camaraderie among our entire community.

It would be remiss of me if I didn't acknowledge the incredible efforts of our staff, who go above and beyond to provide an exceptional education for our students. Their unwavering commitment to fostering a love for learning, supporting individual growth, and cultivating a safe and inclusive environment has made a profound impact on me and on our students' lives.

I also want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all parents and guardians for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children. Your active involvement, support, and partnership have been invaluable in creating a thriving school community. Together, we have nurtured an environment where students are encouraged to dream, work hard, and succeed.

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt best wishes to our students preparing for state exams next month. Despite having the challenge of preparing for their exams in very sunny weather over the next week or so, I know each one of them will do their best and make us proud.

Congratulations also to the wonderful Leaving Certificate class of 2023. I am excited to see what the future holds for you!

As this school year draws to a close, I wish everyone a wonderful summer filled with rest,

rejuvenation, and quality time with loved ones. Enjoy the sun!
Warmest regards,
Helen

Student Awards

On Tuesday 16th May Scoil Aireagail hosted its annual Student Awards event. This is always a very special day in our school calendar, where we get to acknowledge and reward so many of our students who put in superb work throughout the school year. The vast range of categories from the academic, sporting achievements, endeavour and extra-curricular - all help to ensure students are recognised for their talents and achievements in and out of the classroom. Well done to those who were presented with an award, and also to every one of our students who are nearing the end of a very successful and enjoyable year. Thanks to all staff for their hard work in preparation for the Students Awards, and indeed for their dedication and commitment to our students during the year. We wish all students the very best for their summer tests and state examinations and remain here to support you all throughout.

1st Year Display of Work

Our '1st Year Display of Work' took place on Thursday 4th May. This is an annual event in Scoil Aireagail where our youngest students get to showcase some of their projects and assignments which they completed during their first year with us. They put on a very impressive display in our canteen where most of their work could be admired by their family members. It was clear how proud our students are of their work and of our school. Well done to all for putting on such a great display.



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Student Voice

School Prefects

Thanks to all four of our Senior Prefects who acted as great ambassadors for the school and were excellent role models for other students. They represented the student body at school events and showed leadership, and commitment to their role throughout the year.

5th Year Prefects: Michael O Shea & Tara Duggan

6th Year Prefects: Orestas Balsys & Toni Dunne

5th Year Student Prefects Reflection on the Year

At the beginning of the year all 5th year students were asked to nominate ourselves if we were interested in becoming prefects. We were honoured to be selected as prefects to represent and be role models for all the students in the school. Our year began with a training day in the Spring Hill Court Hotel, Kilkenny where we were taught about leadership skills and how we can set an example for other students in the school. The key message we took from the day was that the role of prefect starts with you but it is not about you. After taking part in this training, we were ready to help at the school's open day where we met new incoming first years and their parents. This was a great learning experience for us and will stand to us in future ventures. We are very honoured to have been voted into this role by our teachers. We hope that we have made a difference and have helped out many of the students in the process. Most importantly we hope we have had a positive impact on the school's atmosphere and have represented the ethos of care, respect and sense of community and pride that exists in our school.
-Michael O' Shea 5th Year Prefect



Student Council members reflect on their year representing Student voice in Scoil Aireagail

I enjoyed being a member of the student council this year. I learned a lot about student voice and spending time recognising and solving problems in my school and local area. I visited the Office of the Ombudsman for Children and attended Comhairle na nÓg where we were encouraged to speak up and use our voices. As a result, this enhanced my communication skills which will benefit me in my future careers. -Shauna Sutton PRO

I gained a valuable insight into what it's really like to organize a whole school event. I learned how to properly budget for these events like the breakfast morning where we had a combination of paid sponsorship and overheads. I developed my interpersonal skills. -Andrew Fitzpatrick, Treasurer

I really enjoyed being on the student council this year. It was a great way to get to know other students in different years. Freya Reid-1st year

It has been a pleasure to have been secretary of the student council this year. I have learned many valuable life skills such as the importance of communication, teamwork and leadership. I worked with other students organising and running events while also getting the chance to visit the Office of the Ombudsman for children which was really interesting. -Katie Fitzpatrick

I got to develop my leadership skills this year especially when going on trips as all Junior members of the student council attended the Comhairle Na Nóg event in Langton's Hotel in Kilkenny. It was really cool to meet up with my friends from other schools in Kilkenny and work together. -Mark Power TY

It has been a pleasure to be the chairperson of the student council 2022-2023. Throughout the year, I have learned the importance of communication, and how to arrange and structure a meeting. These are all important skills to have for the future no matter what career path I decide to explore. I got the opportunity to attend a debate workshop where I learned how to construct a rebuttal of an argument. -Amy Prendergast

It has been a pleasure to be a member of the student Council for 2022-2023. During my time on the student council, I was able to develop my skills further, such as public speaking and presentations. As well as that, the student council has taught me skills that I will use in future careers. By being a member I have received many opportunity's to attend many workshops such as "Comhairle Na Nóg" and "the Office of the Ombudsman for Children". -Holly Long 3rd year

The student council has pushed me outside my comfort zone to do things I never would have thought were possible. I have grown in confidence so much over the year from

presenting to the BOM, Parents Council and most recently to be actually able to present to the whole school. - Michael O Shea Vice Chair



Turas Gaeltachta

I mí an Mhárta chuaigh na daltaí ardtéiste go dtí An Daingean, Co. Ciarraí ar a dturas Gaeltachta. Bhí cosc iomlán ar Béarla agus rinne na daltaí a seacht ndícheall Gaeilge a labhairt. Thugamar cuairt ar Chill Airne, Mara Beo an Daingean, Ionad an Bhlascaoid, Ceann Sléibhe agus Aquadome Trá Lí. Bhain na daltaí an taitneamh as an turas agus tá feabhas ollmhór tagtha ar a gcuid Gaeilge dá scrúduithe béil. In March, the Leaving Cert students went to Dingle, Co. Kerry on their Gaeltacht trip. There was a full ban on English and the students did their best to speak Irish. We visited Kilarney, Dingle Oceanworld, Basket Island Centre, Sleah Head and Tralee Aquadome. The students thoroughly enjoyed the trip with a massive improvement made on their Gaeilge for their Irish Orals.



Music

Two of our 6th Year music students perform in the Jam@theroyal in Waterford Theatre Royal. Congratulations to two of our 6th yr music students who performed in the Jam@theroyal in Waterford Theatre Royal back in April. This was an intensive music experience for second level students to come together to work with professional gigging musicians and technicians over an intensive four days, experiencing workshops on songwriting, arranging, sound production, jamming with other musicians and playing a live gig.

World Piano Day

To celebrate World Piano Day back in March, we had wonderful piano music being performed by some of our very talented students during lunch break. World Piano Day takes place on the 88th day of the year, symbolic of the 88 keys on the piano. Thanks to all the students who performed so beautifully.



'Aireagail Beats' Music Concert

Fantastic performances by all our music students today in our end of year Concert 'Aireagail Beats'. Well done to all involved. Scan the QR code to view the live performances.



Business

School Bank

Reflection on School bank by Mark Costigan

This year in TY Business class we got the opportunity to apply for positions with Bank of Ireland to run a school bank as part of the Bank of Ireland Money Smarts Programme for Secondary Schools. The process involved each of us filling out a job application form with Bank of Ireland and then completing a series of interview skills workshops in class.

The next step was the interviews with Sean O' Byrne from Bank of Ireland. Sean then selected the most suitable candidates for the 7 roles on the school bank team.

The team got straight to work and having completed training on GDPR, customer service, and banking compliance, they marketed and opened the bank to students.

The school bank team were as follows:

Bank Manager - Max O' Keeffe

Marketing Managers - Mark Costigan & Mark Power

Operations & Audit Specialist - Saskia Sutton & Kevin Prendergast

Customer Digital Advisor - Eoin Aylward & Sienna Drennan

We received very positive feedback from Sean from Bank of Ireland. He said he had found us to be dependable, reliable, hard-working, conscientious, and honest. Each of us on the school bank team received a certificate of recognition and also a reference letter from Bank of Ireland which will look great on our CV's.



Careers

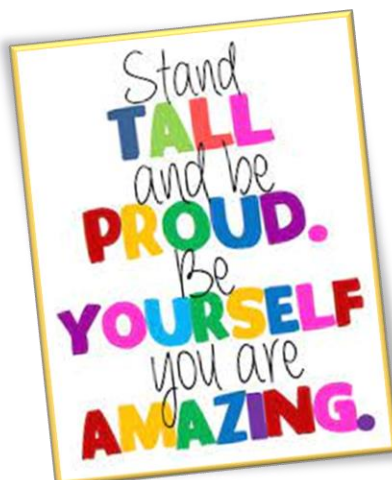
Our 6th year careers students recently met with Colm Bonner and past pupil Elaine Aylward from the Access office student supports services at SETU.

6th year students also had a presentation from Suir Engineering about apprenticeships. 5th Year students enjoyed a talk from past pupil Matthew Fitzpatrick and the Sports and Recreation Management course that he recently completed in SETU

Student and Teachers Table Tennis Finals

To promote staff and student wellbeing we ran a table tennis tournament this term which saw some fantastic battles between players at the table. The final took place at the end of March in the gym. Oisín Duffin and Ronan Crowley played a highly competitive game with Ronan finally taking the title. Well done boys!!

This game was followed by the teachers final where Mr Mackey was merciless, beating Mr Doody on the day. Well done to the 1st years for producing posters for the day and to Caoimhe Corcoran for refereeing both matches today.



Art

2nd Year Art students showcase their BLAST project Over the last five months our 2nd year art students have worked with Artist Thomas Duffy. The 'Blast' Artist in residency programme is a unique opportunity for Scoil Aireagail students to explore the creative process and understand how artists work today. In May students hung their Blast exhibition which showcased their project based on caring connection and ecology.



5th Year Art Students display their project work. Their projects included sketch book pages, paintings, and clay sculpture. Well done on a fantastic display.



Science

2nd Year Science finished off the year dissecting sheep's hearts. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and a task not for the faint hearted. Well done.



TY

Our TY students had a very active last term. In **March** they travelled to **the Comeragh Mountains** and hiked through Crough Woods.



TY students also completed **First Aid Course** where they learned valuable lifesaving skills.



April saw them taking part in a two-day **kayaking** trip from **Goresbridge** to **St Mullin's**. This was the Adventure Journey element of their **Gaisce Award**. Students rose to the challenge and gave it their all. A massive well done to all for completing the task and thanks to [@gowiththeflow.ie](https://www.gowiththeflow.ie) for having us.



April also saw our **TY OUR Gaa Future Leaders** organise our annual **Poc Fada** competition for 1st year students. Great fun was had by all, with some excellent skills on show. Girls 1st place - Leah Davis, 2nd place - Molly Phelan, 3rd place - Saoirse Walsh. Boys 1st place - Conor Holohan, 2nd place - Cian Franks, 3rd place - Gabrielius Balsys. Well done to all who took part and thanks to the TY's for running a great event.



In **May** for their final and most anticipated trip of the year our TYs travelled to **Delphi Adventure Centre** in Connemara for a four-day trip. Students participated in activities such as archery, abseiling, bog running and kayaking. Our students gave it their all and had great fun so a massive well done.



**"Dream big dreams,
commit to you
true passion,
and you will
learn to fly."**

- by Helen Mirren

www.gowiththeflow.ie

Scoil Aireagail Sports Day

On May 22nd we held our annual whole school sports day. Students were challenged to complete physical, skill-based and team activities. The atmosphere around the school was one of positivity and enthusiasm with both staff and students enjoying themselves and having fun. Overall the day was a huge success in promoting our school's Wellbeing and instilling the competitive nature amongst our entire school community.



Athletics

Leinster Schools 200m Steeplechase

Well done to one of our 5th year students who achieved a personal best in the Leinster Schools 2000m Steeplechase this month.



Scoil Aireagail Hurling inter-county blitz

Congratulations to our 12 representatives from Scoil Aireagail who donned the KCETB combined team jersey at the inter-county blitz against Laois and Offaly during the Easter holidays. They developed their skills during the training and squad selection. Well done boys for representing your school and clubs so well.



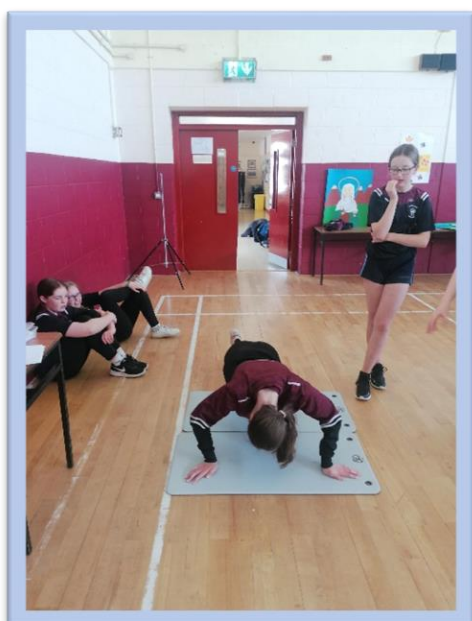
Junior Camogie

Well done to our Junior Camogie team who had a very successful season and got to the Leinster Junior Camogie Novices final. Twelve teams from Leinster competed in the competition so reaching the final was a huge achievement for a very young team. The girls were narrowly defeated by Athy Community College in what was a very competitive match. Both teams were level at the full-time whistle, and it took extra time to separate the teams. The girls gave it everything they had, and we are extremely proud of them. We will be back with vengeance next year!



Junior girls Soccer

Congratulations to our Junior girls soccer team who were crowned champions in the KCETB soccer league. The girls showed tremendous skill, fight and determination to overcome an impressive CPO side 3-1 on the day. Scoil Aireagail is extremely proud of every single player on the team for their effort throughout the year and we are looking forward to more success with this excellent cohort of talented players.



1st and 2nd Year Hurlers win Leinster Final

Congratulations to our 1st and 2nd Year Hurling Team and management who were successful in the Leinster Final vs Mountmellick, Laois. A fantastic display of hurling! We are extremely proud of all students on the team and their wonderful supporters who cheered them on in the final.



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Typing Success

Congratulations to one of our Third-Year students who has been working very hard on improving his typing speed and accuracy during his typing classes. His typing speed was the highest ever recorded in this class to date in the school. Well done for such hard work and dedication throughout the year.



TY Graduation

Our TY Graduation was recently held here in Scoil Aireagail. Students got the opportunity to showcase the work they've done and inform their families about the different activities they participated in throughout the year. A massive well done to all TY students for putting in a great year.



6th Year Graduation

On Thursday, 25th of May, our 6th year students celebrated their graduation by coming together with their families, friends and teachers for a wonderful celebration of their years with us in Scoil Aireagail. We wish them every success in their final exams, and we also wish them well as they embark on a new and exciting chapter in their lives.



2023 Photos



Ukrainian Translation of our Newsletter available by scanning this QR Code
Український переклад нашого бюлетеня



Key Dates

Leaving Certificate & Junior Cycle Exams Wed 7th June

