Scoil Aireagail Newsletter kcetb Riccation agus Clinica Riccation agus Carlow Riccation agus Carlow

Summer **2024**

PRINCIPAL HELEN MCTIGHE'S SUMMER MESSAGE

Dear parents, quardians and students,

As we wrap up another remarkable academic year, I am delighted to welcome you to our summer newsletter. This has been a year filled with achievements, growth, and memorable experiences for our school community. I am incredibly proud of our students' hard work, resilience, and the spirit of cooperation they have demonstrated throughout the year.

In this newsletter, you will find highlights of our students' accomplishments, updates on school activities, and important information about the upcoming academic year. I hope you enjoy reading about the many successes and wonderful moments that have defined our school year. Sincere thanks to all staff whose hard work and high expectations made these moments possible.

We are currently developing our strategic plan for the school and would really value your opinion on how we can develop the school into the future. I am especially interested in hearing the voices of parents who see missed opportunities and areas for improvement in the school.

I plan to hold focus group meetings and individual meetings/ phone conversations with parents at a time that suits you. Please contact the school for more details. I value your opinion and would be delighted to hear from you.

We will have the official opening of our new school buildings on Wed. 28th August. This is an open invitation to past pupils, past staff members and friends of Scoil Aireagail to attend this celebration. Please contact me if you would like to attend or if you know anyone who would like to attend.

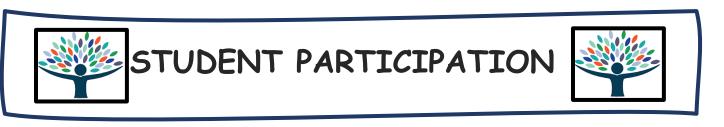
Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September, refreshed and ready for another year of learning and growth.

Warm regards,

Helen







Junior Cycle Reflections: Student Participation and Inclusion at Scoil Aireagail – Ronan Crowley

Reflecting on my time at Scoil Aireagail, I recall moments where students' voices reverberated throughout the school, shaping our experiences and fostering a sense of belonging that transcended the ordinary. One such memory takes me back to second year, when our year head organised a lively table tennis tournament during lunch breaks. Over the course of several months, matches unfolded, culminating in an exhilarating final match that drew spectators from across different year groups. In that electrifying atmosphere, I found myself immersed in the thrill of competition, a testament to the inclusive spirit that pervaded our school community.

Participating in the Connections Through Technology program further underscored Scoil Aireagail's commitment to inclusivity. Every Friday morning, I, along with fellow students, dedicated our time to teaching members of the local active retirement community how to navigate technology. It was a gratifying experience, not only because we were



offering a valuable service but also because it exemplified our school's ethos of extending inclusion beyond its walls. In return, the elderly members of our community joined us during lunchtime, sharing their wisdom through games of Whist, bridging generational divides and fostering connections that enriched us all.

Central to fostering inclusivity at Scoil Aireagail are the dedicated efforts of our teachers. who employ interactive strategies to ensure the active participation of every student. From thought-provoking reading assignments to engaging questioning techniques and open discussions, our teachers have cultivated an environment where every voice is valued, every perspective respected.

As I reflect on these experiences, I am reminded that Scoil Aireagail is more than just a school; it is a beacon of inclusivity, a place where students, staff, and the wider community come together in a spirit of camaraderie and mutual respect. In embracing diversity and celebrating the unique contributions of each individual, our school has created a tapestry of inclusivity that enriches us all.

Inclusive Education: A Senior Cycle student's Reflection on Scoil Aireagail-Jessica Flynn

Reflecting on my journey at Scoil Aireagail, I am grateful for the platform to share my perspective on inclusivity in education. As the 6th year representative of our school's inclusivity team, I've had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the commitment to creating an environment where every student feels valued and supported.

Transitioning to Scoil Aireagail, particularly after being diagnosed with autism the year prior, was a significant step for me. However, repeating 1st year proved to be the right decision, allowing me to thrive in an inclusive setting. The provision of Special Needs Assistants and spaces like the ASD



unit for students overwhelmed by sensory stimuli demonstrates Scoil Aireagail's dedication to meeting diverse needs.

Beyond support structures, Scoil Aireagail upholds a zero-tolerance policy for bullying, swiftly addressing any issues that arise. This stance contributes to a safe and nurturing environment where students can focus on learning and growth.

Participation in initiatives like the first-year mentorship program exemplifies the cross-year collaboration prevalent at Scoil Aireagail. As a mentor, I had the opportunity to assist incoming students in navigating the challenges of secondary school, fostering a sense of community and support from day one.

Moreover, students are empowered to organize events such as table tennis tournaments and sports days, fostering leadership and teamwork skills across all levels. This empowerment, coupled with mutual respect between staff and students, cultivates an atmosphere of trust and collaboration.

At Scoil Aireagail, students are encouraged to flourish without fear of failure. The recognition of our voices and contributions in decision-making processes instils a sense of ownership and pride in our school community. It's this inclusivity and validation of student input that fuels my genuine joy and excitement for learning and participation in school activities.

In conclusion, Scoil Aireagail exemplifies the essence of inclusive education, where every student is valued, respected, and empowered to reach their fullest potential. As I look back on my time here, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunities, support, and sense of belonging that have shaped my journey.



Interview with our 5th Year Prefect Saskia Sutton

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

To be a school prefect, you need skills such as leadership, responsibility, excellent communication, and organization. It is important to be able to work well with others and be a positive role model for other students.

Do you have any advice for younger students?

A piece of advice I have for younger students is to enjoy school while you can but to also put in a good effort and it will prove well when you are in 5th and 6th year.

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

If I could tell my first-year self-anything it would be to get more involved within my year

Who is someone you look up to or admire, and what qualities do they possess that you find inspiring?

Someone I admire is my mam she is ridiculously hard working and always pushes herself to her fullest capability, I aim to be just like her.

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

My favourite memory so far in Scoil Aireagail was our Ty trip to Rome. I enjoyed Rome because it brought the year closer together and it is something I will never forget.









EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



1st Year 'Display of Work' Event: Celebrating Student Achievement at Scoil Aireagail

On Thursday, 2nd May, our 1st Year students hosted their annual 'Display of Work' event. This tradition at Scoil Aireagail allows parents and guardians to admire the outstanding work completed by our youngest students during their first year. Throughout the week, students, guided by teachers and SNAs, prepared their displays in the school canteen. Proudly, they escorted their parents to showcase various projects, assignments, and classwork across multiple subjects.

A heartfelt thank you to all our staff and students for their dedication, and to the parents and guardians who attended. Congratulations to our 1st Year students for their diligence, courtesy, and excellent work ethic. You have been exemplary ambassadors for Scoil Aireagail and have had a very successful first year in secondary school.



3rd year students enjoy a screening of 'Sing Street' at the Watergate Theatre

Our 3rd year students enjoyed an educational trip to the Watergate theatre in April to see a screening of 'Sing Street', the studied film on their JC. A great experience refreshing their memory of the film they have studied earlier this year.



Ag Science Students' Field Trip

In March, our 5th and 6th year Ag Science students visited Kildalton Ag College for Agri Aware day. They enjoyed learning about various enterprises and hearing from Agri businesses and lecturers. They also toured local farmer Bryan Daniels' farm, focusing on sustainability and family-run farm operations. The day was educational and enjoyable, offering valuable insights into different farm enterprises.





Turus Gaeltachta

Ba thuras den chéad scoth a bhí againn sa Ghaeltacht i mbliana. What a few days we had in the West ag foghlaim ár dteanga dhúchais agus ag foghlaim faoin tírdreacht chomh maith.Our first port of call was the famous surf beach of Lahinch and it didn't disappoint. We identified coastal protection measures previously spoken about in class etc.Bhí an ghrian ag glioscarnach go hard sa spéir agus ní fada go raibh daoine ag súgradh ar an trá. From there we headed to the majestic cliffs of Moher which provided us with a stunning view of the area as well as The Aran Islands and the Twelve pins. We even entertained some tourists with a ceilí beag. Poll na bróin and a lesson on Karst landscapes came next followed by The Ailwee caves . Thursday we headed from Ros an Mhíl to Cill Ronáin Inis Mór.Bhí sé ag stealladh báistí ach níor chuir sé isteach orainn. Chuamar ag rothaíocht ann agus thaitin Dún Aonghasa linn chomh maith.Bhí gach duine ag caint as Gaeilge ón noiméad a d'fhágamar Scoil Aireagail until we returned again tráthnóna de hAoine.Beatha teanga í a labhairt.





TY Students Explore Innovative Plastic Recycling at Trifol

Last month, our TY students visited Trifol in Littleton, Co. Tipperary. Trifol, an Irish technology company, has developed a revolutionary process for transforming single-use plastic waste into high-grade waxes and oil. After touring the facilities, the students participated in a quiz and won numerous prizes.



TY Students Enhance Coaching and Refereeing Skills at GAA Future Leaders Training As part of the GAA Future Leaders program, three TY students attended 'Go Games Training' at Nowlan Park. During this one-day course, they developed coaching skills and learned the basics of refereeing. These new skills proved invaluable for the 'Primary School Blitz' our TY Future Leaders organized for Scoil Phadraig Ballyhale.





Business Students Participate in Bank of Ireland Money Smarts Financial Literacy Programme

This year, the TY Business class had the exciting opportunity to participate in the Bank of Ireland Money Smarts Programme for Secondary Schools. As part of the programme, students applied for positions to operate a school bank in collaboration with Bank of Ireland

The process began with each student filling out a job application form for Bank of Ireland, followed by interview skills workshops to prepare for the selection process. Sean O'Byrne from Bank of Ireland conducted the interviews and selected the most suitable candidates for the seven roles on the school bank team.

Once selected, the team immediately began training, covering essential topics such as GDPR, customer service, and banking compliance. They then focused on marketing and promoting the bank's opening to their fellow students.

On Tuesday, May 21st, the school bank was officially opened. The dedicated team was busy assisting students in opening current accounts with Bank of Ireland. This initiative provided invaluable learning experiences, encompassing the world of work and essential life skills.

Well done to Ms. Dooley and all involved in making this a successful and educational venture!



Inside Leinster House: Nurturing Tomorrow's Leaders - A Memorable Day for Our 2nd-Year Students and Student Council Members!

Visiting Leinster House: Our 2nd-year students and student council members had an exciting day at Leinster House, visiting both the Dáil and Seanad Éireann! They explored the historic building, met with Minister Malcolm Noonan, who kindly facilitated the trip. We also chatted with Claire Daly, a European elections candidate.



Scoil Aireagail History Department Remembers: Honouring the Great Famine and Reflecting on Modern Afflictions

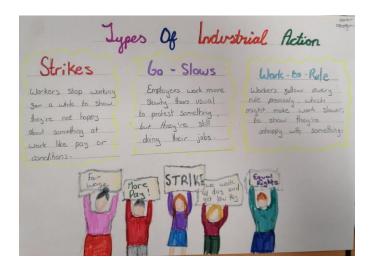
On Friday May 17th, Scoil Aireagail joined many other schools across the country in respectful remembrance of the millions of people who suffered loss during The Great Famine of the 1840s. We remembered those in the world who face similar afflictions today.

Thanks to Ms Byrne & Ms Leahy for organising and to Caoimhe Corcoran for delivering these words so eloquently.



Second-Year Business Class Explores the World of Work

Our second-year Business class delved into the world of work, examining the rights and responsibilities of both employees and employers. Students explored these dual perspectives and showcased their findings through impressive information posters. These creative and well-researched posters are a testament to their hard work and dedication. The skills they developed during this project will serve them well in their future endeavours, setting them up for long-term success.



Tuesday Tunes': Showcasing Musical Talent

Throughout the year, our school community has been enchanted by the captivating performances of our talented MUSIC students in our 'Tuesday Tunes' music slot. Each week, these students deliver live renditions, showcasing their exceptional musical abilities and passion. Their performances have been a source of joy and

inspiration, enriching our school experience. Congratulations to all involved for their outstanding contributions. Scan the QR code to enjoy their performances.



Culinary Excellence: Junior Cycle Home Economics Showcase

The Junior Cycle Home Economics students recently showcased their culinary talents during their practical exams this month. Under the expert guidance of their dedicated teacher, they practiced extensively, and their hard work truly paid off. The students prepared meals that could rival those of top-tier restaurants. In addition to their impressive cooking skills, they also gained fantastic life skills that will serve them well beyond the classroom. Congratulations to everyone involved!







EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



TYs Shine Bright at Variety Show!

On Friday, 12th of April, the talented transition year students took centre stage at their much-anticipated variety show. The evening was a blend of dance, music, and drama, showcasing the remarkable skills of these young performers.

Under the guidance of Pat Grant, the transition year students had been prepared for this moment since September. Every Tuesday they worked hard to refine their performances, fine-tuning their moves, harmonies, and instrumentals. The anticipation grew as the week progressed, culminating in a spirited final dress rehearsal on Friday afternoon.

As the clock struck 7:30 PM, the curtains rose, and the show commenced. From toe-tapping dance routines to soulful melodies, the audience was treated to a captivating display of talent. Laughter, applause, and cheers filled the room as each act unfolded. The entire evening was a resounding success, leaving everyone with memories to cherish.

News Report written By Abbie Furlong, Sienna Kotze, and Sophia Keane.



Exploring the City of Light: TY Adventure in Paris Leaves Lasting Memories

Our TY class recently visited Paris in May this year. During their trip, they saw many of the city's most famous sights. They walked down the Champs-Élysées and viewed the Arc de Triomphe before cruising down the River Seine. From the Seine, they saw many famous buildings, including the Louvre Museum, Notre-Dame Cathedral, and the Eiffel Tower, to name a few.

They also visited Disneyland Paris, where they enjoyed all that it has to offer. Needless to say, everyone had a fantastic time. The lightning storm that coincided with the fireworks show will forever live in their memories. Finally, they visited the famous Palace of Versailles before flying home from Charles de Gaulle Airport.

Huge credit goes to these fabulous young people who showed nothing but respect and decency to each other and those they encountered from start to finish. Scoil Aireagail Abú!







Soccer Triumph for Scoil Aireagail On Wednesday, May 22nd, our junior boys and girls achieved remarkable victories in their KCETB league finals held at Highview Athletic. Facing tough opponents, the girls took on Coláiste Aindriú Bagnelstown, while the boys clashed with Coláiste Pobail Osrai.

In a hard-fought match, our girls dominated the field against Coláiste Aindriú Bagnelstown, though breaking through their defensive formation proved challenging. It was a late surge from players like Orla Sutton, Megan Walsh, and Abbie O'Keefe in the second half that secured a well-deserved victory, with a final score of 4-0 to Scoil Aireagail.

Meanwhile, the boys displayed impressive teamwork and skill from the start, with standout performances from Michael Dunne and Oisin Duffin. After a clever free kick from Sam Mansfield, deftly finished by Duffin, the boys took the lead. Despite a spirited fightback from Coláiste Pobail Osrai, an inspirational second halfand extra--time performance, particularly from Cathal Coogan, stifled their threat. Two late goals, orchestrated by Mansfield and finished by Duffin, sealed a thrilling 3-1 win for the boys.

These victories mark a quadruple of trophies for Scoil Aireagail Soccer this year, a testament to the dedication and talent of our players and the guidance of our management team led by Mr. Mackey and Mr. Doyle. Congratulations to all involved on this outstanding achievement!





Students Hosted Bake Sale Yesterday for Relay for Life!

On Tuesday, 14th May our students took the lead in hosting a bake sale in aid of the Irish Cancer Society as part of Relay for Life! They worked tirelessly to bake delicious treats and set up the event. Additionally, they sold Candle of Hope bags, adding a meaningful touch to the fundraiser. Thanks to their efforts, every donation brought us one step closer to a world free from cancer. It was truly a memorable day for all involved!





Raising the Green Flag: Scoil Aireagail Honoured for Global Citizenship in Litter and Waste Management

On the 13th of May, two of our third year Green Schools representatives travelled to Hotel Kilkenny to accept their Green Flag on behalf of Scoil Aireagail. Our students worked continuously throughout the year- to achieve a Green Flag in this year's theme Global Citizenship Litter and Waste. Throughout the school year, students evaluated environmental issues within the school, came up with an action plan; surveyed the school community to gather information about attitudes towards Green School issues and educated their peers about sustainability issues. Well done to all involved and thanks to Ms. Phelan on her constant efforts towards our Green Schools.





Empowering Mental Health Awareness: Amber Flag Raising Ceremony**

Last Friday, on May 24th, our school community came together to proudly raise the Amber Flag, marking a significant milestone in our commitment to mental health awareness. This initiative serves as a platform for learning and growth, where students actively engage in discussions and activities aimed at promoting positive well-being.

Mr. Carrigan, Ms. Byrne and the students on our Amber Flag Committee have shown great commitment in promoting positive mental health by encouraging teamwork and contributions from peers.

Through these initiatives, our students have gained invaluable insights into mental health, learning the importance of self-care, resilience, and seeking help when needed. By raising the Amber Flag, we affirm our dedication to breaking the stigma surrounding mental health and creating a supportive environment for all members of our community.

Together, let's continue to foster understanding, compassion, and acceptance, paving the way for a brighter and healthier future for everyone.





Grandparents' Day Celebration: Honouring Family, Community, and Respect at Scoil Aireagail!

On Wednesday May 15th, our school welcomed a special gathering of students and their beloved grandparents. Together, they shared heartwarming stories over cups of tea, fostering connections and cherished memories. The atmosphere was filled with the melodies of music and the beauty of poetry, as we paid tribute to our esteemed guests.





Celebrating Student Success at Scoil Aireagail

Scoil Aireagail proudly hosted its annual Student Awards ceremony on Tuesday, May 14th, recognizing the outstanding achievements of our students throughout the academic year. Covering various categories including academics, sports, extracurricular activities. and personal endeavour, the awards celebrate the diverse talents and accomplishments of our student body. Congratulations to all recipients and thank you to our dedicated staff for their tireless efforts in organizing this event. As we approach the end of the academic year, we wish all students the best of luck in their upcoming tests and examinations. Remember, we are here to support you every step of the way.









Transition Year Students' Pilgrimage to Lourdes

From May 22nd to 27th, five of our Transition year students travelled, with 40 other youth leaders, to Lourdes with the Ossory Lourdes Pilgrimage to assist the sick and elderly.

Many of the pilgrims were fulfilling a lifelong wish to attend a pilgrimage in Lourdes and our youth leaders made this possible. They had a very busy week accompanying and transporting the pilgrims to many religious services; Mass at the Grotto, Candle Lit Processions, Penitential and Water services, the Stations of the Cross, and Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick at Côte de Grotte to name but a few.

They also brought the pilgrims around the town of Lourdes to shops and cafés soaking in the atmosphere of fellow pilgrims and numerous marching bands and army processions.

Michael Catt, Erin Walsh, Ryan O'Shea, Winnie McDonagh, and Patrick Dungan conducted themselves with compassion, kindness and respect during their time in Lourdes. Their hard work and commitment to their adopted Grannies and Grandads is a testament to their strength of character and leadership. They worked extremely hard and gained an experience of a lifetime. They did themselves, their families, their Diocese and Scoil Aireagail proud. Well done all.





James Devereux memorial Mass

On Friday, May 10th, our school community came together to honour the memory of Mr. James Devereux, former Principal of Scoil Aireagail in Ballyhale. Past students, staff, and friends joined hands, sharing stories and laughter as we remembered a remarkable leader. His legacy lives on in the halls where dreams were nurtured, and futures shaped.







Celebrating Intergenerational Solidarity at DCU

Thursday May 16th marked a remarkable celebration of intergenerational solidarity as students from Scoil Aireagail and members of the Mullinavat Active Retirement journeyed to Dublin University (DCU) to accept City Intergenerational Solidarity Award. This esteemed accolade acknowledges the profound connection between generations and the positive impact of fostering relationships across age groups.

Ronan Crowley had the privilege of receiving the award from Roderick O'Gorman, the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration, and Youth of Ireland, underscoring the significance of their efforts.

In addition to the ceremony, the students enjoyed exploring DCU's dynamic campus, including an engaging visit to the Virtual Reality Lab, enriching their educational experience and fostering a deeper connection with technology and innovation.

It was a memorable day filled with learning, laughter, and camaraderie for all students, two members of the Mullinavat Active Retirement group, and Ms. O'Callaghan.



Transition Year Graduation Celebration

On Tuesday, May 21st, we celebrated the Transition Year Student Graduation, an unforgettable night filled with joy and excitement! From the awards ceremony to the lively music and captivating live performances, the evening was a true celebration of achievements and dreams. Congratulations to all the graduates and their proud parents!



Past Pupil's Generous Gift: A Trophy Cabinet for Scoil Aireagail's Achievements

Huge thanks to David Doyle, who was one of the first students in Scoil Aireagail when it opened in 1959, and whose grandchildren now attend the school, for kindly gifting this beautiful trophy cabinet which he made so students can enjoy all their recent accolades.





Young SVP: Scoil Aireagail TY Students Make a Meaningful Impact in the Community

This year a fantastic group of Scoil Aireagail ty students took part in the Young SVP, (St Vincent de Paul) the very first representatives from Scoil Aireagail. Throughout the year this group of students carried out some great fundraising events involving collections at our Christmas market, bake sales, movie day and their homeless awareness campaign. Their work and dedication to the cause didn't go unnoticed as the SVP course leader had only praise for our students. After all the hard work put in our students got the opportunity to showcase their work as SETU Waterford last week, they all received tremendous praise, engagement from schools, teachers and the SVP team. This has undoubtably created life long memories for our students, each student now awaits their certificate from SVP to show their appreciation for the effort, dedication and awareness created by our students for such a great cause. Many thanks to all who have helped our students on their journey, local shop Carrols, parents, students, teachers, neighbours who attended the different events

and huge thanks to the Good Shepard Centre Kilkenny who continue such great work to help those in need. Scan the QR code to enjoy watching a video of them talking about their experience.





Celebrating 6th Year Graduation!

On Thursday May 23rd, we celebrated our 6th Year Graduation! The evening was filled with laughter and tears as our students prepared to step into the world beyond school. Whether they're pursuing further education or entering the workforce, we wish them all the best for their bright futures!



Promoting Online Safety: Parent Information Evening

On Friday, May 17th, we hosted an informative evening for parents on Internet and Phone Online Safety. As we navigate the digital landscape, it's crucial to equip ourselves with knowledge and tools to ensure our children's safety online. Together, let's work towards making the digital world a safer space for our kids.

SCOIL AIREAGAIL PARENTS ASSOCIATION

INTERNET AND PHONE ONLINE SAFETY

FRIDAY 17TH MAY 2024

8PM ONWARDS

SCOIL AIREAGAIL, NEW BUILDING

Informative session on internet and phone safety for parents



Celebrating Success: 1st and 2nd Year Hurling Team Triumph!

Congratulations to our 1st and 2nd-year Hurling team for their outstanding victory in the South Leinster Final against Presentation Carlow at Dunmore Complex. Our Scoil Aireagail boys showcased exceptional skill and teamwork all over the field, with each player dominating their position.

Despite a strong challenge from Presentation Carlow in the second half, our team remained resilient. Captain Seamus Murphy's leadership was instrumental, making crucial clearances, while our forwards ensured the scoreboard kept ticking.

This victory is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and skill of our players, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievement! With such talent and determination, the future of hurling in Scoil Aireagail looks incredibly bright.



Minor Camogie Team Advances to Leinster Final

On May 20th, our minor camogie team faced off against Loreto Navan, securing an impressive victory that extended their winning streak and earned them a spot in the Leinster final. Led by Captain Saoirse Walsh, the team showcased their skills and determination.

In a fiercely contested first half, our girls gained a three-point lead with scores from Cara Coogan, Leah Davis, Saoirse Walsh, and Emma Dempsey, making the score 1-4 to 1-1.

The second half saw Loreto Navan applying pressure, but our team's tight marking and solid defence kept them at bay. Amelia Jenner contributed a brilliant point, and Cara Coogan found the back of the net once more.

As the match neared its conclusion, the score remained tight. However, a fantastic goal by Leah Davis secured the win for our team. With a final score of 3-7 to 3-3, our minor camogie team now looks forward to bringing this winning spirit to the Leinster final.

Best of luck to the girls as they compete in the Leinster final on Wednesday, May 29th, at 2 PM in Freshford. Let's come out in full force to support our team. Scoil Aireagail abú!







Debs Fundraiser Soccer Match!

Our 6th Year students organized an exhilarating soccer match on Monday, May 20th, as part of their Debs Fundraiser! With the sun shining brightly, it was the perfect setting for some friendly competition on the field.

The positive atmosphere was infectious, with everyone enthusiastically cheering on the soccer teams. And to add to the excitement, the ice cream van made a special appearance!

What a fantastic day it was!





Sports Day Success!

Sports Day on Monday, May 20th, was an absolute triumph! The sun beamed down as everyone enthusiastically participated in various sports activities. From soccer to relay races, the energy was contagious! Let's cherish these sunny memories and keep the sports spirit alive!





Key Dates

Leaving Certificate & Junior Cycle Exams Wed 5th June

