



Newpark Newsletter

Issue 69 May 2026

The Principal Word



There has been an enormous amount of curricular and co-curricular successes this term, illustrating all that Newpark is and all that is positive about a comprehensive school and a comprehensive education. The coming pages feature these endeavours and achievements which happened in every corner of the school, from classroom to pitch to court to theatre to GPA, and in every corner of Ireland and even Europe, from Tallaght to Limerick to London, to Luxembourg. In small and big ways, we have together acknowledged and celebrated all these variety of successes throughout the year. I thank the student and teacher *Newsletter* team for collating and recording these activities and achievements for our benefit now and in perpetuity.

In January, the school community experienced a deep sadness. The death of Odie Bolger, 6TMC, is a great shock and a great loss to us. We continue to grieve Odie and to extend our thoughts and sympathies to his parents, Lorna and Dan, his siblings Amelia (Class of 2013), Ned (Class of 2014), Kitty (4TF) and Ethan (2HCE) and of course, to Odie's friends and peer group in Sixth Year and across the school. Odie brought great presence to this school. He was himself. He was curious, creative, and passionate. He is greatly missed, and he will always be remembered.

The deaths this year of Isabel and Odie have been shocking, tragic, and upsetting for our school community. Grieving has a definite starting point, but no definitive end. The truth is that we always carry what has happened inside us. But people bereaved, in the way that students in First Year and Sixth Year in particular have been this year, report that one day, perhaps against expectations, they find that there is space for something else – a plan, a hope. And one day, maybe there is a little more space. It isn't so much that your grief is growing smaller, it is that your world is growing around the grief.

I have seen enormous fortitude, compassion, and love in this school community this year. We have been here for each other. We have continued, together. We were and are obliged to do so of course, but we did so and do so in a manner that is both respectful and mindful of Isabel and Odie, their respective families and friends and, of course, of all students in this school. I have great faith in our students, in our staff, in our parents and guardians and in our wider school community.

For Odie and Isabel, ar dheis Dé go raibh a nanamacha.

I wish to acknowledge all those who volunteer in our school. This is a wide-ranging group of people. From the Board of Management to the PTA, from teachers and staff who go the extra mile with supervision or co-curricular activities to students who engage in a wide variety of activities for the betterment of their peers' experience or indeed for the betterment of groups and organisations outside the school. Volunteering is a key indicator of a successful community. Volunteers provide a service with an altruistic or philanthropic intention, and this is a significant marker of a morally healthy society. Thank you to all of those who quietly volunteer for the good of Newpark.

We have a noteworthy retirement from the teaching staff this year. Someone who over his 40 years of service has become a pillar of our Newpark community. I refer of course to Mr John O'Neill. John joined Newpark as a teacher of metalwork in September 1986.



Despite my own advancing years, I was only a schoolboy myself in 1986. But I have been a colleague of John's for twenty of those forty years and I hold him in high regard. When I came to work in this school, John was welcoming, reassuring and kind to me. And of course, I have come to learn that this is John's disposition with his students too. Along with his knowledge, expertise, and passion for engineering, this is what makes John the teacher he is. It felt like John would be here in Newpark forever, but of course, all great things come to an end. John has a special place in the hearts of his past students, past colleagues, current

students, and current colleagues. His contribution to this school, in engineering, in adult education and of course in the personhood he brought to this community has been immense. That workshop coat, that was originally white, may be hung up for the last time shortly, but it will not be forgotten. Go n-éirí leat John in your retirement agus go raibh míle maith agat for your life's work in Newpark.

I wish our Sixth Year and Third Year students well in their upcoming state examinations. I hope that all students will be deservedly rewarded for their hard work and preparation. I also wish all First Year, Second Year and Fifth Year students well in their summer examinations.

I will be in touch with all students and parents/guardians in August about arrangements for the start of the new school year. Term dates for the 2026/2027 academic year are available on the school website; go to 'About us', and 'Annual calendar dates'.

Finally, I would like to extend sincere appreciation to all my colleagues for their commitment and dedication over the past year. The pastoral and holistic care brought by my colleagues to their work is a gift to our students and to our school.

Tá súil agam go mbeidh sos deas agaibh ar fad i rith saoire an tsamhraidh agus go mbainfidh sibh sásamh agus tairbhe as.

By Mr Eoin Norton

2025 Entrance Scholars



Congratulations to Sarah Glanville, Oscar Rowe, Aoibhinn Nic Phiarais, Mark Maybury and Molly Sweeney from the Class of 2025 who have been recognised by Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin for their academic achievements in the Leaving Certificate.

Sarah and Oscar have earned top honours from Trinity College Dublin through its Entrance Exhibition Award for their outstanding academic performance. Entrance Exhibitions are awarded annually to exceptional incoming students.

Aoibhinn, Mark and Molly have been awarded Entrance Scholars Awards from University College Dublin. These awards are part of UCD's Ad Astra Academy, which supports a select group of highly talented students across academic, sporting and performing arts disciplines. It is the university's highest tier of recognition for incoming students, highlighting excellence and potential across a broad range of fields.

Congratulations to the new prefects 2026/27



Our new prefects are: Ruby Bennett, Camilla Bolton, Joss Brooks, Ethan Cannon-Gonzalez, Ben Carroll, Josh Carroll, Florence Chipperfield, Tuathla Cooling, Ruby Creighton-Kowalsky, Seán Daluz, Lilly Doran-Barrett, Tom Farragher, Miles Geraghty, Tora Groarke, Denise Hodgins, Gareth Hopwood, Noah

Jenkinson, Kuba Kadlubowski, Lola Kavanagh, William Kehoe, Piran McSweeney, Anna Morrison, Mollie O'Brien, Martha O'Flanagan, Eleanor O'Sullivan, Joel Pedapongu, David Rankin, Evelyn Roche, Turlough Rooney, Fionnuala Rowe, Ava Slattery, Beatrice Stewart-Miller, Oisín Twohig, and Yana Yoakley.

Impressive Individuals

Newpark's Olympian



Congratulations to Cormac Comerford (Class of 2014), who represented Ireland at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Italy. Cormac took part in the Men's Downhill Alpine Skiing event, finishing 34th overall in a highly competitive field.

He also competed in the Super G and Giant Slalom events, continuing to build on his Olympic experience with strong performances against some of the world's top skiers. Representing Ireland across multiple disciplines is a significant achievement and reflects his dedication and progress at the highest level of the sport.

We are immensely proud to see Cormac competing on the world's biggest stage.

You can read Cormac Comerford's message to Newpark on page 16 of this newsletter.

PEXpo



On the 30th of April, I represented Newpark at the PEXpo in the National Indoor Arena in Blanchardstown. PEXpo is an interactive PE project competition for secondary school students, and I did my project on the prevention of ACL injuries in women's

sport.

When we arrived, we signed in, found our board, and set up our projects. At 10:00, the judges came around to ask questions, while students also got the chance to try activities like fencing and boxing. There were also "peers" (other students presenting) who helped judge projects too.

Once judging finished, we had a break while the results

were decided. There was a fun science and sport session with "Mark the Science Guy," and then the awards ceremony began, with prizes for different categories and an overall winner.



I really enjoyed PEXpo, it was a great experience and interesting to see what other students worked on.

By Cate Steele, 3rd Year

Leinster Rugby



Over the February mid-term and Easter break, I had trials for the Leinster U18 Youths side. I was returning to the team for a second year, having already played up a year last season, so the first trial during mid-term was fairly steady, just getting used to some of the new lads and trying to bring them up to the level.

The next trial took place over Easter and was a three day overnight camp at Clongowes Wood College. I did not have this experience last year, and it really made a difference, especially for team cohesion. Over the three days, we had a training session followed by two matches.

I sat out the first match against the Munster Youths, as they put out a slightly weaker side to save players for the following day. Still, the lads went out and won

against a nearly full strength Munster team, which was a big achievement.

The next day, we played the Leinster Schools, a team we had not beaten in over a decade, so it was always going to be a tough challenge. I was lucky enough to be given the honour of captaining the side for the game. We went on to break the long losing run, beating them 53-24, which was a great result and a perfect way to set us up for the summer ahead.

By Alan Marnell, TY

Leinster Hockey



Over the Easter break, Leo Marnell, Susanna Bloomer and I competed in a tournament in The Hague, Netherlands, representing Leinster U16 and U18 hockey teams. Over the span of five days, we played six games against teams from all over the world. Although the results didn't always go our way, it was a phenomenal trip with excellent hockey played.

By Finn Harty, 5th Year

This year, I was lucky enough to take part in the Leinster Hockey Hague trip. Twenty players out of fifty were selected for the U16 squad. We had three training sessions with the final squad in Dublin before travelling.

On the first day, we were at the airport early for our flight. When we arrived at our hostel, we headed straight out for training in preparation for the tournament. We stayed from Thursday to Monday. In the competition, we lost two games, drew one, and won one. In the game we won, I was chosen as captain.

On Sunday, we attended a King's Day disco where everyone had to wear orange. The disco took place at

the hockey club where we played each day, HDM. On the final day, we watched the women's and men's EHL finals, which was a brilliant experience for the whole team. Hopefully, I get to go on this trip again next year.

By Leo Marnell, 2nd Year



I was selected to represent Leinster U18s in The Hague, Netherlands.

We played six games in total, winning four of them. We were unlucky not to reach the semi-finals, but it was a great experience and a very high standard of hockey. We met so many people and made connections all over the world.

By Susanna Bloomer, TY

International Hockey



Congratulations to past pupils Dara Kieren (Class of 2018) and Charlie Mills (Class of 2024) on receiving their first Irish Hockey ID caps, presented by Irish Hockey captain Sarah Hawkshaw. Everyone in the school community is immensely proud of Dara and Charlie, and we wish them continued success in their hockey journeys.

1st Year Boys' Hockey



This year has been a very successful one for the boys. From February we managed to reach the semi-finals, where we unfortunately lost to St Andrew's. We also reached two other semi-finals in both the league and the cup.

In the cup we had a few tough matches, especially a 2-1 quarter final win against Sandford, where we had to grind out the result despite missing a couple of key players. Unfortunately, our cup campaign came to an end against St Andrew's in an unlucky 1-0 loss. It was a really strong performance and we were very unlucky not to get more from the game.

It was a similar story in the league, where we again played St Andrew's. We lost 2-1 after being 2-0 down. We pulled one back from a short corner and dominated much of the rest of the game, but were unable to find the equaliser.

Overall, this year I am very proud of the boys and we will be ready to go again next year. We also owe a lot of our success to our amazing coaches, Mark, Elliot and the two Bens.

By Harry Crammond, 1st Year

1st Year Girls' Hockey



The last few months of our hockey season were so much fun. All teams enjoyed playing many league and friendly matches, and some even got the chance to play

a few Minor Girls matches as well. All the girls really appreciated the time the coaches gave us to help improve our skills and organise our matches.

A few girls even got Leinster trials through the school and are learning so much from the experience. This shows that putting in time and dedication can really pay off. Our last training session involved playing a match against the boys' First Year team, which was challenging but also very fun.

All the girls were enjoying hockey so much and were sad about the early finish to the season, so the coaches kindly offered extra training for the last couple of months in school. We are all very grateful to have such great coaches, training sessions and matches, and we cannot wait for Second Year and the new season.

By Amelia Burns, 1st Year

Minor Boys' Hockey



Second Year boys' hockey got off to a slow start this year, but after Christmas we started to get the results we should have been getting. Our league matches were very strong, from beating Andrew's by five goals to drawing with Wesley. We are very proud to be on level with teams we weren't before. This came from many intense training sessions with Vinnie and from simply not accepting defeat during our games.

Our cup run was almost a final. First, we beat St Killian's with an easy 5-0 win to qualify. Then we had a close, intense game against St Andrew's, where we came out with a 1-0 win away. Then came the semi-final against St Columbus, with all of the second year classes coming out to watch and the pressure on. We got the first goal and the crowd was roaring, but we couldn't hold on and they went 3-1 up. In the Newpark way, we didn't give up. We got one back but just couldn't find another.

A huge thanks to Vinnie, Ben Marnell, Al the hockey coordinator, and many more. Thanks for a great season: we can't wait to come back better next year.

By Leo Marnell, 2nd Year

Champions: Minor Girls' Hockey



This has been an amazing year for the Minor Girls' Hockey team, with huge improvement and many matches played throughout the season. The Minor Girls' A team played their league final on the 5th of March. The team was very excited for the day of the match. We were nervous, but we had been working hard at training, so we felt well prepared.

Unfortunately, on the day of the match the weather was not great. It was cold and cloudy, and later there was heavy rain. Many people came down to support us at the Three Rock Rovers hockey pitch, with buses taking both the team and supporters there. The team was very focused during the warm up because we really wanted to win. We had reached the quarter finals of the cup, but we did not progress any further. The league final was our last match of the season and our final chance to win a trophy.

When the match started, it did not take us long to score our first goal. This boosted the team's confidence and the supporters were very happy. It was an extremely close game. Although we were winning, both teams had a lot of possession and created scoring chances. The opposition had several opportunities, but our goalkeeper made some fantastic saves to keep the score at 1-0.

Eventually, Newpark scored again. We were very happy as there was not much time left in the match. The game became even tighter towards the end. The other team grew more determined to equalise, but Newpark was equally determined to win. They came very close on several occasions, with the ball rolling along the goal line at one point, but our goalkeeper still managed to keep a clean sheet.

The match finished 2-0, and we were incredibly happy. Every player on the team had worked hard throughout the season to prepare for this match. We were very proud to have won the league and brought home the trophy. Everyone is now very excited for the next hockey season.

By Sofia Kiriy, 2nd Year

Junior Boys' Hockey



Beating Sandford 3-1 began the month long preparation for the Leinster Schools Cup Final against St Andrew's at Three Rock Rovers Hockey Club. We put in a lot of effort, including coming to two training sessions over the February midterm and a couple of early morning training sessions involving sprints, agility, and endurance. The whole school should be proud of our preparation and high spirits alone.



The day of the final got off to a cracking start with encouragement from our captain and coaches. We had a great start to our match as well, holding the fort in the first quarter. We scored the first goal of the game in our second quarter, putting us 1-0 up at half time. Sadly, in the last quarter St Andrew's came back to win the game. We lost 5-1, but everyone on the Newpark team put up a great fight in getting to the final and played unbelievably well.



The whole team would like to give a huge thank you to our amazing and encouraging coach Vinnie, as well as Mark and Ben. They kept us going and we owe our level of hockey to them.

By Josh Crammond, 3rd Year

Senior Boys' Hockey



The Senior boys' hockey team continued their winning streak after the All-Irelands with multiple league wins and a strong 2-1 semi-final victory against St Andrew's on a stormy afternoon in Newpark, securing a place in the cup final against Wesley College.

The team went into the final with courage and determination. Unfortunately, we came up against a side that had proven themselves to be unbeaten throughout the year, and we were unable to secure the cup. Although there was disappointment after the game, it did not last long. We all realised that Wesley may have won the cup as a team of hockey players, but we made the final as a group of friends who supported each other through thick and thin throughout the year.

It is safe to say we celebrated that night as if we had won the match, because we felt like the real winners.



Without a doubt, the success of this strong and passionate Newpark team would not have been possible without our coaches, Ben Marnell and Mark Cullen. They have been simply incredible and have put in so much work to make the team what it became. From Mark's old-school drills to Ben's modern tactics, they both set us up for success throughout the year. They are inspirational and admirable people, and on behalf of myself and the team, we are eternally grateful for the memories they allowed us to make. Simply unforgettable moments that we will all cherish.

By Ryan Adams, 6th Year

Senior Girls' Hockey



This year's senior girls' hockey season may not have been defined by wins on the scoreboard, but it was an incredibly rewarding and memorable experience for everyone involved. From the very beginning, the team approached each match with determination and a positive attitude, always giving our best effort regardless of the result. While victories were few, the real success of the season was how the team grew stronger together, supporting and encouraging one another through every challenge.



Our training sessions and matches were filled with energy, laughter, and a shared commitment to improve. As the season went on, we all became close friends, creating a supportive and uplifting environment both on and off the pitch. Every game brought new lessons and moments to be proud of, whether it was a great play, strong teamwork, or simply never giving up.

In the end, it was the friendships, the memories made, and the enjoyment of playing together that truly defined the season. I'm 100% sure that the incoming 6th year girls will keep the enthusiasm going and make sure their team next year is just as supportive and encouraging as this year's. As captain, this year was very special to me. I am very proud of every single one of the girls, and I will miss them all so much next year. I couldn't have asked for a better team.

By Sara Balosanu, 6th Year

Indoor Hockey - Senior Boys



This year, the Senior Boys took part in the Leinster schoolboys national tournament, held in Gormanstown at Gormanston Park in a large indoor facility. Indoor hockey can be a big adjustment for players who are more used to the outdoor game, so it was great to get out and have a proper run at it.



Newpark were drawn in a tough group alongside Newtown School and Skerries Community College, but still managed to put together some strong performances. The first game was against Newtown, who we would later face again in the final. It was a



tight match, and although we battled well, we narrowly lost 3–2. There was still plenty to play for, and the team responded well.

We then faced Sandford Park School and secured a comfortable 4–0 win, followed by a close game against Skerries, where we came out on top 5–3 to book our place in the semi finals.

Going into the knockout stages, the aim was clear: we did not want to leave without some silverware. That goal was achieved with a strong win over Temple Carrig School, sending us into the final. Although we were beaten in the final and finished second overall, it was still a fantastic day, full of great experience and a brilliant result for the team.

A special thanks goes to our coaches, Ben and Oisín, whose support and effort made it all possible.

By Josh Carroll, 5th Year

Indoor Hockey - Senior Girls



In January, the Senior Girls' hockey team took part in the National Indoor Tournament held at Gormanstown Park. Newpark was one of eighteen schools competing on the day, with teams divided into four groups.

Our group was realistically the toughest, featuring strong sides such as St Andrew's College, Institute of Education, Skerries Community College and Strathearn School.

After four matches, with two wins and two losses, we progressed into the Shield competition. Two more great games followed against Loreto Beaufort and The Regent House School, where strong performances saw us finish second in the Shield.

Although some of us had never played indoor hockey before, it was a really enjoyable day. Everyone improved, gained valuable experience and learned something new about the game.

By Yana Yoakley, 5th Year

Schools' Golf



The TY golf competitions started at the beginning of the school year around November. The first competition was at Bray Golf Club, where I had an okay round after getting an 8 on the first hole, then paring the next four holes.

Things got competitive near the end as lots of clubs were scoring the same points. I think Powerscourt Golf Club are in the top three now, but we will not know for sure until the end.

I really enjoyed playing in these competitions as I got to play all over Wicklow and Dublin with free green fees, which was a great bonus. These competitions will stay with me for my future golf career, and I hope to tell bigger and better stories in the future.

By Reuben McDonald Keeley, TY

1st Year Boys' Rugby



The first-year boys' rugby team has performed very well throughout this school year. There has been a consistent turnout at training and matches, and everyone is looking forward to the JCT next year.

At the start of the year, many players were new to the sport, but everyone has improved greatly over time. The team has played against a variety of schools, including St David's, St Conleth's, and Wilson's Hospital. We have also taken part in several competitions, such as leagues, blitzes, and 7s tournaments.

In our most recent 7s tournament, we reached the final against St. David's, a team we had lost to earlier in the year. Despite multiple injuries, including to key players

such as Hugo McDonnell, we narrowly lost by just one try. We were still very proud of this result and are looking forward to playing St. David's again next year.

A big thank you to our three coaches, Mr Weymes, Lewis Thornton, and Jos O'Keefe, for their time and dedication. Without them, this season would not have been possible.

By Mani Cowman, 1st Year

Junior Boys' Rugby



The Junior team had a disappointing end to their season with a loss in the Duff Cup semi-final as well as the league final. It was disappointing as we had worked hard during the year. It was great to see the support that was shown out in De La Salle.



We were disappointed not to win, but we still had a very good season in the league, going unbeaten up until the league final. It was a strong year considering the level we were playing at, and we did really well as a team to reach the stage we got to.

We had a very good squad, and hopefully the second years and the incoming first years can continue to do well next year. We would all like to thank Mr Lennon, Joss, Jacob, and Mr Adams for organising games for us.

By Max Lennon, 3rd Year

Senior Boys' Rugby



The 25/26 senior rugby season was one to be a part of. Although we didn't hit some of the goals we set ourselves at the start of the season, I don't think you would be able to tell, and I think that is what was special about this team this year. We were an excellent bunch of losers who would not go down without a fight. Those that attended the league final against St Benildus will know I mean that literally.

Even though we lost, I think that game was a highlight of the year and a highlight of my time in Newpark, and I bet we had way more craic than Benildus did that night.



The lads this year all got on really well on and off the pitch, and that is what made our season. Social nights, Six Nations games, training sessions, and match days always had a great buzz. I think it reflected what Newpark rugby is all about: having the craic and, who knows, maybe winning a final along the way (or not).

I would like to thank Gary Smyth, Cathal MacGearailt, and everyone else involved behind the scenes for the effort, patience, and support they gave us this year. None of this would have happened without them.

To the 6th years, Roan, Hugo, Eli, Eoin, David, and Patrick, it has been an honour to play alongside you,



and hopefully it won't be the last time. To the rest of the team, it was a pleasure. I hope you all enjoyed it; I certainly did. Keep the Newpark spirit alive for future generations.

Now I felt it was necessary, so I've written a poem to reflect our season this year.

Thank you.

The trophy cabinet may be empty

But in our hearts we know we have it plenty

Through mud and rain, through blood and bruised skin,

It was never just about the medals we didn't win.

Every tackle made, every line we held,

Every story in silence that was never quite told.

Early mornings, late nights under fading light,

Newpark beside you, ready for the fight.

Not for silver, not for gold,

But for the pride in the jersey we wore so bold.

We fell, we rose, we gave our all,

Together we stand, together we fall.

And though the scoreboard won't remember our name,

We'll never forget Newpark and the love of the game.

Because trophies fade and banners decay,

But the bond we've built will never slip away.

So here's to the season, the laughs, the pain -

Newpark forever, we'd do it all again.

By Jack Marnell, 6th Year

The Basketball Diaries

1st Year Girls



This term, we started playing matches and although we had some losses, we won a lot of them. Personally, I think the team has come really far since the beginning of the year, especially considering that many of the girls had never played basketball before.

One of the things that makes basketball training so much fun is that we get to play with our friends. Ms Browne has taught us many techniques this term. The team has been trying their best in training, working hard to get better.

I hope we continue getting better next year!

By Hanna Dimitrova, 1st Year

2nd Year Girls



Basketball was very enjoyable this year. Our team welcomed some new members, and everyone made great progress during training. We all enjoyed playing matches, and we performed very well in some of them.

The team was delighted when we found out we had reached the quarter-finals, and we were very excited to play. Unfortunately, we lost the match, but everyone worked hard and knew we had tried our best. We are still training now and hopefully will get to play a friendly match. Thank you very much to our coach, Mr Colgrave. Everyone enjoyed the season and is looking forward to playing again next year.

By Sofia Kiriy, 2nd Year

1st Year Boys



This year was a wonder for the boys' basketball team. We made new friends and developed new hobbies through basketball. It was a great season full of improvement, teamwork, and enjoyable matches. We would all like to thank our coach, Johnny, for improving our skills.

The boys' basketball team would also like to thank Ms O'Keeffe and Johnny for going out of their way to organise matches for us, allowing us to leave school and classes to play.

By Ivan Konovalov, 1st Year

2nd Year Boys



This year in basketball, we were pretty successful in terms of results, winning four out of our six games. We only technically lost one, as we were forced to give a walkover in an earlier match.

This season, we played against Clonkeen College, Harold's Cross, CBC Monkstown, Coláiste Chill

Mhantáin, and De La Salle in our final game, which we unfortunately lost. Although we didn't make it to the final, I am still very proud of our team for reaching the semi-finals and performing well throughout the year.

We have all made great progress in our basketball skills, thanks to our coach, Johnny.

By Adam Oak, 2nd Year

U16 Boys



Our season had already ended by the new year, but we have kept up great training sessions. We were happy with our result in the league, although we were disappointed to have been knocked out.

A big thank you to Ms O'Keefe and Art, who were our coaches for the year. We are all buzzing

for next year when we join the senior team.

By Oisin Breen, 3rd Year

Ms O'Keefe's Cork Pilgrimage



After our All Ireland Cup victory in January, the Senior Boys excelled in the League games bringing the opportunity to go to Cork to play in the All Ireland semi-final. This was a big deal because we also had the chance to stay overnight. We were told (repeatedly) by Ms O'Keefe that this was an even bigger deal because we were going to **Cork**. The plan was to get the train down the day before, stay in a hotel and play the two matches the next day.

We left school early on the Wednesday and went to Heuston Station. Our train was due to leave at 3pm and Mr Doyle and Ms O'Keefe wanted us to be there for 2.30pm. Of course, Sean Daluz was late and came just before the train was about to leave. We hopped on the train and made our way down to Cork. We played some games on the train and had some fun, except the 6th

years who had to study for their mocks. The train ride flew by and we were in Cork before we knew it.

Ms O'Keefe helped us to navigate to the hotel (did I mention she's from Cork?), which was lucky because we would have needed a translator otherwise. The hotel we stayed in was called the Clayton and it was lovely. It had a pool, sauna and steam room which we went to straight away. We spent 45 minutes there, then went back up to our rooms to change and get ready for dinner. We went to a really nice pizza place and afterwards got some ice cream. We headed back to the hotel where we had a bit too much fun and went to bed preparing for the next day.

We woke up at 7.30am the next day and went down to a buffet breakfast which was really nice. We went back up to our rooms to chill a bit before checking out. We thought we were ready to leave but of course Sean Daluz forgot his jacket in his room. After he got it, we walked towards the bus stop. The bus left us outside the arena we were playing in.

Ahead of the games Ms O'Keefe channeled Roy Keane with a rousing team talk and we were good to go. The first game was against St Matthew's, the home team. It was a close game but we edged it 56-45. Because we won this we had a break until our next game. The Dundalk team had beaten the Cork team meaning we had to beat Dundalk to qualify. It was a nail biting game and it went back and forth, with the opposition eventually edging it 56- 59. It was very disappointing to go out like this but overall it was a great trip and we were all very grateful for it. Thank you to Mr Doyle and Ms O'Keefe for bringing us!

By Jamie Bannigan, 5th Year

All Ireland Cup Winners

This has been an outstanding year for the Senior Boys. Not only did they reach the semi-final of the All Ireland League and win the Regional Cup final for the third time in four years, but in January they went on to win the All Ireland Cup in a nail-biting final against Clarin College. Congratulations to all!



Senior Girls



Not too much has happened since the last update for the Senior Girls' Basketball Team. Our league is over, yet we managed to squeeze in a friendly against Nord Anglia back in March. We made sure it was an away game, so we got to visit the bougie €17,000-a-year school! We had a great turnout and thoroughly enjoyed the match, but sadly we walked away with a loss (so did the boys though, so technically we are on the same level as the All-Ireland winners)!

Our training has continued every Thursday, although the turnout is rather small. However, that means we get to play alongside our brilliant coaches, Mr Doyle and Ms O'Keefe, which is always a blast. (Although none of us are yet to win money from Mr Doyle for getting 10/10 free throws). We have also come up with the infamous "granny shot" to score a three pointer, so hopefully that legacy continues on. Us 6th years are so glad to still be a part of the team, and we will really miss it once we leave Newpark. We'd like to thank all our coaches throughout the years, and we'd recommend girls' basketball to any future players!

By Fia Scally, 6th Year

Leinster Senior Schools Gala



The Leinster Senior Schools Gala took place at the National Aquatic Centre. Myself and Holden woke up at 7am to get there, ready for an early start.

I competed in the 100m breaststroke and the 100m freestyle, while Holden also swam the 100m

breaststroke. I finished tenth in the 100m breaststroke and fifteenth in the 100m freestyle, and Holden did really well too. We both achieved personal bests in all our events, which made the day even more rewarding.

It was a great experience in a fun and competitive environment, and it was nice to meet friends from other schools that I have swum with before. Overall, it was a really enjoyable day.

By Hunter Houston, 1st Year

Swim A Mile



Congratulations to all the students who participated in the Swim a Mile Challenge 2026. This year the challenge was run in conjunction with Active Schools Week. In one week,

students swam a combined 35 miles (56km) which is over 10km longer than the entire M50!

Henry Simpson swam the most miles in Senior Cycle, Holden Houston swam the most miles in first year and Libby Houston came out on top in Junior Cycle and overall with over seven miles. We are looking forward to another great year of swimming and running the Swim a Mile Challenge for a longer period next year.

By Ms Laura Farrell

East Leinster Schools' Track and Field Championships



This year 40 students represented the school over the two days of the East Leinster Athletic Championships in Morton Stadium, Santry. 63 schools from the East Leinster division were competing in a packed timetable each day, with 2000 students each day representing their schools.

Highlights over the two days were Juno Ormsby (2nd

CCSSCA Athletics Track & Field Championships



Year) coming second in both the Junior Girls 100m and 200m finals. Juno had to progress through heats and a semi-final to reach the final. She also ran a leg of the relay in the Junior Girls. Olivia Baryga (1st Year) came 2nd in the 100m in the Minor Girls. She also had to progress through the qualification rounds to reach the final and ran a leg of the minor girls relay. Two 1st Year students competed in the Junior Girls 75m Hurdles: Amelia Burns and Nieve Gleich. The girls ran their heats and straight after having qualified ran the final. Amelia came second and Nieve third in the final. Both students beat the current Dublin champion to medal. Hunter Houston (1st Year) had to wait until the end of the day to compete in the Minor boys 1100m final. In very hot conditions, Hunter ran very well in a packed field of students, keeping up with the leading pair and then sprinting the final 100m to place 3rd overall.

Juno, Olivia, Amelia and Hunter have all qualified for the Leinster Schools' Finals in Tullamore on the 20th May.

Over the two days, Newpark had students compete throughout the different age groups in the field events of shot put, discus, javelin, long jump and high jump. In the track events in both girls and boys we had students compete in the 100m, 200m, 400m, 500m, 800m, 1100m and mile. We also fielded two Junior Girls 4 x 100m relay teams in the A and B event, a Minor Girls 4 x 100m relay team and a Boys U16 4 x 300m team. Our Monday after-school relay training sessions benefited our athletes in participating in very competitive races. Well done to all the students who competed and represented our school over the two long days. Also a big thank you to Mark Cullen who assisted in officiating both the long jump and triple jump over the two days.

By Mr Shane Davey

Newpark was greatly represented on Tuesday and Thursday for the East Leinster athletics competition.

Everyone had fun and a good few brought home medals! Although Tuesday's weather wasn't as nice as it could have been, Thursday was warm and bright. There was a lot of waiting around for our events to start, but it was nice to get a break from classes and have a day outside in the sun!

Everyone appreciated Mr Davey and Mark Cullen taking the time to supervise us and organize going all the way to Santry.

By Nieve Gleich, 1st Year

On Thursday 7th May 36 students from 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year travelled to Tallaght athletics track for the annual CCSSCA Track and Field championships. Overall we had a great day and our athletics squad won a total of 24 medals. A number of students also placed 4th overall in finals.

Highlights of the day included our 1st Year girls team winning ten medals overall. This included our 4x100m relay team coming first. Olivia Baryga, Tilda Holmes, Nieve Gleich and Amelia Burns combined to put in a very impressive performance. Olivia also placed first in the 100m, Ameila placed first in the 200m, Tilda came fourth in the 800m and Nieve came second in the shot put. Eva Guildford placed second in the long jump. Maria Slodkowska placed third in the high jump. Hannah Chambers ran up in the 2nd Year 800m and placed third.



Annie Swanton came first in the 2nd Year girls long jump. Unfortunately Juno Ormsby injured her ankle in 100m and could take no further part in the day.

The 2nd Year boys also placed first in the 4 x 100m relay final, Jack Curtis, Marcus Rennicks, Albert Bagrin and Leo Marnell combined to win a very exciting race. Leo won 100m, Marcus won 200m, Jack came second in the 800m and Albert placed fourth in the long jump.

Our 3rd boys placed second in the 4 x 100m relay final, Jack McDonnell, Felix Roe, David McAdams and Max Lennon combined to run very well in a very competitive final. Jack also placed second in the 100m final. Vann Clarke placed second in the javelin.

Well done to all the students who participated and thank you to Mark Cullen and Gormlaith Ormond with assisting with the officiating for the day.

By Mr Shane Davey

Cormac Comerford, Olympian *A message to Newpark*



Firstly congratulations to everyone who has made personal wins this year and to everyone who celebrates all of the great things about Newpark of which, I know, there are many.

Newpark was such a transformative part of my journey to becoming an athlete, an engineer and most importantly the person I am today.

When I was in First Year in Newpark, around 2008, I was relatively new to the sport of Alpine Skiing. I was a sports fanatic and somewhat interested in academics, but if sport taught me anything, it was that to be great, I had to work on my mind as much as my body.

In First Year we created a mini biography scrap book and I remember writing in it that I wanted to be a professional ski racer. This was a bit of a mad goal for someone who had skied only a handful of times and came from Glenageary which lacks the crucial ingredient for skiing, snow. At the time I also didn't half believe in myself either, but I liked the idea and had a passion that wasn't going away very easily.

Throughout my six years in Newpark I spent most of the winter holidays training and competing, and sometimes taking time off school. This was under the condition that I never let my academics fall behind so I made sure to talk to all my teachers, organise myself and stay on top of school work even when I would've preferred to just be skiing. I'm glad I did this because it was diverse capabilities and interests that helped me navigate through the tough seasons in my life.

Since joining and moving on from Newpark I have competed at five world championships, failed at gaining selection for three Olympic games, broken national records in ski racing, failed a few exams (would not recommend), became an engineer, and finally achieved a lifelong dream.

This past February I achieved my childhood dream of competing at the Olympics for Ireland in Alpine skiing, at the age of 29, sixteen years after I started in

Newpark (more than a whole lifetime later). It was not a straightforward journey but one I am extremely grateful for.

It was not the Olympics that made this dream special but the people I met, the experiences gained and the capable person I became along the way. Whether or not I made the Olympics, I have become more confident and capable than I ever thought I would. That for me is where the true value in trying is.

Newpark offered the environment, variety and support I needed to flourish in every aspect of life. The ethos of Newpark is one I really value and believe can support all of us to reach our true potential in every facet of life, not just academics. If you have the will, Newpark will help you find the way.

By Cormac Comerford, Class of 2014

1st Year Olympics!



The prefects decided to run a sports day for all our First Year buddies in April. We set up the pitch and back courts full of activities and battled it out for the ultimate prefect group champion.

Each team was given some time beforehand to come up with chants and get face-painted. The prefects took part, and it all got very competitive, especially in tug-of-war! Other activities included capture the flag, dodgeball and egg and spoon race.

It was quite chaotic controlling the entire year, but everyone had such a fun time. We had a prize giving ceremony at the end, where we had lunchbox vouchers for the winners, and sweets for runners up. We also did some best-dressed prizes as each group was assigned a colour and had to get creative. Overall, I'd say it was a major success, and I hope it'll become a tradition in the years to come!

By Fia Scally, 6th Year

Here's what the 1st Years had to say:

The First Year Olympics was an afternoon full of fun, where we took part in many activities and games such as basketball, football, tug of war, capture the flag and a lot more. Well done to the Blue Team for the win.

Overall, it was a great day away from class on a sunny Thursday. We would all like to say a huge thank you to Mr Ludgate and to every single prefect for making this year amazing and especially for organising the Olympics.

By Harry Crammond, 1st Year



The Olympics with the prefects was very fun and exciting. My team leaders Abby and Jack were super fun and encouraging to us all. I would love to do it again. It was a great chance to mix with the other people in our year, do sports together and work as a team.

By Camila Mullins, 1st Year



There were loads of different events and everyone got involved, whether it was tag rugby, egg and spoon or tug of war. The atmosphere was great and it was such a sunny day, which made it all the more enjoyable. In the end the Blue Team won. Their team prefects, Chloe and Will, did a great job keeping everyone motivated. The prefects did an outstanding job, a huge thanks to them for organising it.

By Ettie Pearl Brow, 1st Year

The Empire Strikes Back!



Is it that time of year already? The school calendar, like the sporting calendar itself, moves to rhythms that are reassuringly familiar. And few rhythms are quite so comforting for the staff as the annual reminder of their enduring supremacy in the Staff v Sixth Years series.

The students arrived buoyed by youthful certainty and selective memory, convinced this would finally be their year. Around the staffroom, however, there was more than a hint of foreboding. This was a side carrying mileage: creaking limbs, ACL injuries, late withdrawals. Surely time catches everyone eventually?

Not quite yet.

The opening football fixture quickly dispelled any notion that the old order was ready to surrender quietly. What unfolded was not merely victory, but an emphatic and unprecedented 5–1 dismantling of the Sixth Years.

To be fair to the students, there was logic to their approach: absorb pressure, stay compact, and trust younger legs to prevail late on. Early exchanges were competitive enough, the game played at a tempo that suggested the staff might eventually begin to labour.

Instead, it was the students who blinked first.

Two beautifully constructed goals from Alec Cole and Alex Doyle shifted the mood entirely, the staff suddenly moving the ball with a fluency that belied both age profile and pre-match pessimism. The students responded through Will Lloyd, and at 2–1 there remained a sense that momentum might yet swing.

Then came the decisive spell.

What followed bordered on exhibition football. The staff monopolised possession with passages of tiki-taka that would not have looked entirely out of place at the



Camp Nou. Melvin added a spectacular effort before Doyle poached another, extinguishing in the process Lewis Thornton's long-nurtured dream to score for the staff side.



By now the contest had drifted irretrievably away from the students. A final flourish from Aussie import Hayden Colgrave completed the rout and sealed a remarkable 5–1 triumph.

For the Sixth Years, it was a chastening opening salvo.

For the staff, it was another reminder that class, however weathered by time, remains permanent.

Next came the hockey and, with reputations bruised after the footballing collapse, the question was whether the Sixth Years could summon a response.

They could.

If the football had been an exercise in staff composure, the hockey became something altogether more fractious: a contest shaped as much by controversy and emotion as by quality. In the end, though, the students deservedly restored parity in the series with a disciplined 3–1 victory.

The game itself will likely be remembered as much for the officiating as the hockey. A series long built on tradition and good humour briefly descended into scenes more befitting an ill-tempered derby, culminating in the extraordinary mid-game replacement of the referee at half-time. Inevitably, calls for VAR have already begun to circulate.

The defining flashpoint arrived with the award of a highly contentious stroke to the students. Having been



denied what they considered a stonewall stroke moments earlier, the staff felt particularly aggrieved. Amid predictable outrage, Will Lloyd stepped forward calmly and buried it beyond Shane Davey, who until then had produced a string of excellent saves.

At 1–0, the staff response was immediate. Mark Cullen coolly dispatched a stroke straight down the middle to restore parity at 1–1.

But parity proved short-lived. The students wrestled back control and were rewarded when pressure eventually told in scrappy fashion, the ball adjudged to have crossed the line for an own goal to make it 2–1.

Then came the moment that effectively settled it. What exactly possessed Susan O'Keeffe in front of her own goal may never be fully understood. Perhaps it was the confidence of a Cork native; perhaps it was a fleeting



belief that hockey and hurling are variations of the same sport. Whatever the explanation, the result was catastrophic. A calamitous misjudgement gifted Ryan Adams the simplest of finishes to make it 3–1.

There was still time for one final twist. With the staff pushing for a way back into the contest, Alex Doyle was presented with a golden opportunity to halve the deficit from a stroke. But it was taken with little conviction, a tame effort comfortably saved.

On the day the students were sharper, younger, and

simply better. Pride restored, momentum reclaimed, and suddenly the series was delicately poised heading into round three.



For all the novelty and noise surrounding the final basketball game, the decisive contest ultimately followed a familiar theme: when the staff raised the tempo, the students simply could not live with them. By the closing stages of a one-sided 34–10 victory, the staff's superiority had been emphatically reasserted.

If there had been any anxiety in the staff camp beforehand, it was concealed well. Bigger, stronger and more cohesive, they imposed themselves physically from the outset through Declan, Alec Cole and Thomas McEnery, while Aoife Fox's impressive cameo ensured there was no drop in intensity.

Alex Doyle and Paul dictated the rhythm of the game with calm authority. The staff side played at a tempo the students could briefly disrupt but never sustain, maintaining their defensive intensity right through to the final buzzer.

Yet the loudest cheers of the afternoon may well have been reserved for Susan O'Keeffe. Every visit to the free-throw line was accompanied by a torrent of heckling which might easily have unsettled a less composed player. Instead, O'Keeffe delivered the performance of the afternoon, repeatedly converting her free throws while also contributing several excellent baskets from open play.

To their credit, the students never entirely abandoned the fight. Andrew Russell emptied himself defensively and brought a relentless energy that briefly altered the mood in the hall.

But only briefly.

Ultimately, the staff's superiority - physical, tactical and emotional - endured once more. The students depart with pride intact and evidence of progress in patches, but the broader truth remains unchanged.

The wait goes on.

By Anonymous Sportswriter

SciFest



Congratulations to Szofia Sabady and Eve Murray, the winners of Newpark's annual SciFest, who created a fascinating project exploring the future of forensic science and the chemical luminol.

The competition was judged by former students Breno Keogh, Oisín O'Sullivan and Isobel McSweeney, along with Sheila and Aoife from SciFest, and our very own Claire Grant and Cillian Costigan.

The school was also awarded a SciFest Gold STEM Award, recognising its strong commitment to participation in SciFest. Sheila, the SciFest representative, described this year's projects as the best she has seen from Newpark.

Here's what the 1st Years had to say:

Winning SciFest was a truly shocking experience for me. I still remember sitting in the GPA as the winners were being announced one by one. I looked at my partner Eve and said, "it's ok if we don't win, we tried our best." The moment I finished saying that, they called out two names, not just any names, our names.

I remember the pure joy in that moment and the excitement as I went up to receive the award. Our project focused on modern science and how it can be integrated into forensic science. We divided it into three sections: the use of AI in forensic science, advances in medicine such as CRISPR, and a look back at past forensic methods, in our case luminescence.

Our plan was incredibly ambitious, but we made it happen. Despite all the stress, we achieved so much, and I could not be prouder of both myself and Eve.

By Szofia Szabady, 1st Year

SciFest was a blast. It was two full class periods filled with chat, learning, and of course science. Everybody gave it their all with their unique and impressive science projects.

From forensic science to sugar crystals, mouldy bread, and static electricity, every experiment developed into a strong project. The judges viewed everyone's work, assessing presentation, effort, and the overall quality.

Awards and prizes were given for the best projects, and everyone was very impressed with the standard. Most importantly, everyone had fun, and it is something we would definitely like to do again.

By Suin Daly, 1st Year

Shorely the Best Trip Yet



On the 15th of April, 36 lucky Second Year students made the annual pilgrimage from Newpark to Inis Mór, the biggest of the three Aran Islands. A long bus journey to Rossaveal was followed by a challenging boat journey where some students (and even some teachers) struggled to cope with the choppy sea.

Upon arrival in Inis Mór we got into our rooms and had dinner and acclimatised to our new lives in the hostel. The landscape of the hostel was a big eye opener for our Australian (Mr Colgrave) not used to seeing sheep and cows in the wild.

On the first day we got woke up at 7:30 to catch the boat to Inis Oirr, the smallest of the Islands. This boat journey was a lot calmer and allowed some time on the top deck of the boat. Everything was going well until we stepped foot on the beach and the rain started for the entire day. This was not appealing to Australians

who wished for the warm weather of home. We walked around the island visiting graveyards, shipwrecks and lighthouses. Ms O'Keeffe's 'basic' music choices kept spirits high for most of us. Returning to Inis Mór gave us the time to work on our projects and then warm ourselves up



with a chicken curry.

On our second day, we had weather that was a lot more appealing to Australians. We hired bikes and went for a cycle along the coast of the island. We stopped halfway to look at some sunbathing seals before continuing to Dun Aengus an ancient promontory fort perched on a cliff 100 metres above sea level. This terrifying drop was made even more scary when we looked over the edge. Thankfully for Mr Smyth nobody managed to fall over the cliff before returning to our hostel. Ms Scott was then able to get us all together for a swim in the tropical waters of the Atlantic Ocean. After that we *really* struggled to warm up and went out for dinner in the American Bar.

After dinner we went to a local playground complete with football pitch. There we had what we've been told is the second annual Aran Islands Classic where the boys take on the girls. Sarah Shepperd's excellent save of Mr Smyth's final penalty gave the girls the victory over the boys for the Second Year in a row (which the girls definitely did not brag about).

The Aran Islands Trip was great fun, and we would all recommend it to any First Year next year. We all wish we could go again and stay for even longer. Thank you to Mr Smyth, Mr Colgrave, Ms O'Keeffe and Ms Scott for bringing us on the trip.

By Juno Ormsby, Rachel Gifford, George McEvoy, Emily Kavanagh, 2nd Year

Pages From The Past



In January, 2DSH were fortunate enough to get a chance to visit Dublin City library and archive.

We got the Dart into Pearse station that morning and completed the short walk to the archive, led by Mr Smyth and Mr Costigan. Once

we arrived, we took in the sheer size of the building before making our way in.

When we got inside, we were greeted by the lovely staff and shortly after we shown the magnificent artefacts including:

- A meal plan for prisoners in Mountjoy Prison during the Famine
- A map of Dublin from 1850 based on streetlights
- Newspaper articles from 1916
- An original copy of the proclamation

The staff then gave us information about each of these old objects. It was very fascinating. It was a great experience to be able to see these artefacts and get an insight into Ireland's history.

Overall, everyone enjoyed the trip, and it was a lovely day out altogether. A big thanks to everyone that made this outing happen.

By Ryan McFadden, 2nd Year

Strike!

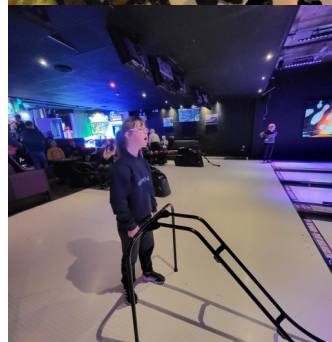


In March, 2nd Year students who don't do Irish went to Bray Bowl. Ms Colin, Mary and Ms Slyvka were also there.

Bowling was difficult but fun. My friends and I each had a go, and at one point Ms Colin tried it out as well.

After bowling, we went to the seaside. Some of my friends got ice cream. We threw stones into the sea and I made a rock castle.

By Blanka Sarkadi, 2nd Year



2nd Year French Exchange



En Janvier, la classe de section européenne est allé en France. Nous sommes allés à l'aéroport très tôt le matin. Nous avons voyagé en train à Cormeilles-en-Parisis. Nos correspondants ont rencontré à la gare. La classe ont du temps libre à dépenser avec nos correspondants, et j'ai visité le musée du Louvre !

Chaque matin, nous avons rencontré à l'école. Tout d'abord, nous avons visité le Musée Fragonard. Ça sentait très bon! J'ai acheté un savon parfumé pour ma famille. Après, nous sommes allés sur les Bateaux Mouches. C'était une magnifique excursion en bateau le long de la Seine! Nous avons vu la tour Eiffel, la Notre-Dame et bien plus encore.



Mardi, nous sommes allés au musée d'Orsay. Nous avons deux heures au musée. J'ai vu beaucoup de tableaux et sculptures. Mes tableaux préférés étaient 'Les Courlis' de Bruno Liljefors et 'La Nuit étoilée' de Van Gogh. Puis, après notre visite au musée, nous sommes allés faire du shopping à la gare Saint-Lazare. Puis tard, nous sommes rentrés à la maison.



Nous avons vu l'école de nos correspondants le mercredi. Avant ça, nous avons fait une chasse au trésor à Cormeilles en Parisis. À l'école, ma correspondante avait des

cours de physique, de mathématiques et d'art. Nous avons du temps libre après l'école, et je suis allé à la maison.

Le lendemain, nous avons visité le stade de France. C'était très grand. Nous avons une guide touristique, et nous avons pu voir de nombreuses zones différentes du stade. La guide touristique nous a raconté quelques faits, par exemple: le toit du stade pèse plus que la tour Eiffel! Ensuite, nous avons acheté des souvenirs dans le magasin. J'ai acheté une écharpe. Le dernier jour, nous sommes allés à Disneyland! Il y avait beaucoup des montagnes russes. Je suis allé sur une looping! J'ai acheté des oreilles de Minnie de Disneyland. Beaucoup de gens ont acheté un souvenir. La journée était très amusante mais fatiguant. J'ai passé un très bon moment pendant le voyage, et j'ai adoré Paris!

Par Sofia Kiriy, 2nd Year

The Return Leg



From April 12th to April 17th, second year students involved in the trip to France hosted their French pen pals and introduced them to life in Ireland. The pen pals had a really cool itinerary planned by their teachers: they toured Dublin on the Viking Splash, they played GAA, and they went to Causey Farm. It was wonderful to get to join them there and even jump in the bog – which was a shame for my clothes, but still a fun and unique experience! Still, my favourite thing personally about the trip to Causey Farm was seeing the animals; as everyone who talked to me in the next 2-3 days knows because I was way too happy to contain myself, I got to hold the





cutest little lamb ever! There were also rabbits, cows, geese, and alpacas.

On the first day, my pen pal and I walked around the city centre and continued into Dún Laoghaire. In our free time, we hung out at Killiney Beach with some friends – my pen pal was brave enough to jump in the sea (I was not). I'm not sure if she enjoyed that, but when we took her to the Butlers café near the school, she definitely loved the hot chocolate there – I mean, who doesn't? Still, it meant I got to buy myself a cup too! The pen pals had a day at school with us on Wednesday, and afterwards some of us went to Bray for a lunch at MacDonalds and to go bowling. I didn't win but, hey, I wasn't last!

We finally had to say goodbye on Friday morning. It was a fantastic exchange and I was very happy with all I got to do. Not only is it nice to be able to host someone (even if you have to surrender your room...) and show them around, it's very refreshing to look at familiar sights through a new, excited lens. And, as you want your pen pal to enjoy their time here, you focus more on filling your day with fun stuff! In general, I think exchanges are interesting both as a host and a guest, because there is so much to discover both ways.

Most importantly, a massive thank-you to Madame Kovacs, Madame Travers, and all the teachers involved in organising these trips! It was an incredible two weeks (in France/in Ireland) and I am so grateful that we were able to be part of it!

By Micaela Colazurdo, 2nd Year

Senior French Exchange

Des étudiants de TY et du cinquième année ont eu la chance de faire un échange à Paris pour une semaine, pour améliorer notre français et pour plonger dans la culture française. C'était un voyage complètement incroyable, et une expérience que je n'oublierai jamais.

Nous sommes partis à 6h00 mercredi 21 janvier, et même si c'était très tôt, tout le monde avait tellement hâte d'arriver en France, de se rencontrer avec ses correspondants, avec qui on se hébergerait. Nous



sommes arrivés vers 9h00 et puis nous avons pris un car pour aller à Paris.

L'école de nos correspondants, Fènelon Sainte-Marie, était située dans le huitième arrondissement, près du centre-ville. Elle est l'une des écoles plus grandes à Paris, et en faisant un tour de l'école, nous avons compté huit étages, trois cantines, et une grande chapelle, avec plus de 3,500 étudiants.



Nous nous étions rencontrés avec nos correspondants avant le tour, et nous avons eu un déjeuner vraiment nécessaire après le très long voyage. Tout le monde a beaucoup parlé et bavardé, et après nous sommes rentrés chez nos correspondants pour déposer nos valises, et nous avons le reste du jour libre. Moi même, j'ai fait une promenade avec ma correspondante et ses amis autour le Marais, le centre-ville, et les Champs-



Elysées, avec des autres étudiants irlandaises. L'architecture parisienne, le métro, et l'activité du ville, tout se sentait comme si on était dans une carte postale stéréotypée.

Après tout ça, nous sommes rentrés chez nos correspondants et j'avoue, après la

journée, j'ai très bien dormi.

Le prochain jour, nous nous sommes rencontrés à l'école pour commencer. Nous sommes allés au Palais Garnier, le palais central de l'opéra, tellement décadent, et après à Notre-Dame, une cathédrale reconstruite après un feu il y a six années. Nous sommes allés aussi à la Gare Saint-Lazare, pour faire des achats. C'était plus relaxé qu'hier, mais aussi agréable.

Vendredi, nous avons pris un bus pour aller au Montmartre, une petite ville sur un mont, environnante Sacre-Cœur, une autre cathédrale. Il faisait vraiment froid, mais nous y avons la consigne de compléter une chasse au trésor (on attend même les résultats!), et nous avons pu visiter cette jolie ville.

Après ça, quand le soleil s'est levé un peu, nous sommes rentrés au centre-ville pour faire un voyage sur les Bateaux Mouches, des bateaux sur la Seine. Voir la cité du fleuve était intéressant, et voir des lieux qu'on avait déjà visité mais de la Seine était vraiment jolie.

Samedi était libre pour passer le jour avec nos correspondants, et tout le monde a fait des choses différents. Moi et des autres étudiants sommes allés au Louvre, où nous avons vu la célèbre Mona Lisa (surestimé, j'avoue) aussi que des autres peintures et sculptures, et la Place de la Concorde, une place avec un obélisque égyptien. Nous sommes montés la Tour Eiffel et nous avons mangé des gougères sur Trocadero.

Dimanche, on s'est levé aussi tôt et nous sommes partis la France après des jours vraiment inoubliables. J'ai vraiment profité de cette échange, et personne ne peut attendre que nos correspondants viennent en Irlande.

Merci aux Mmes. Fullam et Magan pour nous accompagner!

Par Damián Colazurdo Bedrossian, TY

The Art Of Getting Lost

"Now, we didn't get lost *that* much!"
A photo compilation of Ms Magan and Ms Fullam getting lost in Paris with fourtee- no... Fifteen students.



← **Premiere destination est... La Normandie?**
Cour du Havre, Gare St Lazare)



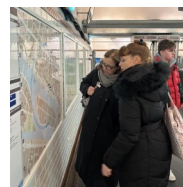
→ **Priorités**
(Palais Garnier)



← **Le probleme du passagere perdue**
(Tourniquet, Gare de Opéra)



↑ **Contributions des badauds**
(Grande carte, Gare de Opéra)



← **C'est quoi ce truc bleu?**
(Grande carte, Gare de Opéra)



→ **Merci a la "Magic Map!"**
(Point Zero des routes de France, Parvis Notre-Dame)



↑ **Evaluation par les pairs** (Un Peu à Gauche du Point Zero des routes de France, Parvis Notre-Dame)



↑ **Qui a besoin d'un plan d'étage?**

(Lycée Fenelon Sainte-Marie)

While the teachers may have almost gotten us stranded in Paris (and into various other shenanigans on several occasions), in the wise words of Ms Magan, it's "all part of le voyage à l'étranger! Explorer, découvrir, se perdre, se trouver, s'amuser..."

Photos and text by TakiTora BouAynaya and Romy Burke

A Welcome Breakfast



Du 9 au 15 mars, nous avons eu le plaisir d'accueillir les élèves de Seconde du Lycée Fénélon Sainte-Marie à Paris dans le cadre d'un échange scolaire.

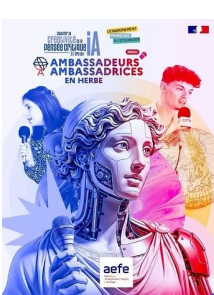
Celui-ci a été mis en place depuis 2022 et est un franc succès depuis. A cette occasion, un petit déjeuner de bienvenu était organisé pour les élèves français. C'était le moment pour les deux groupes de faire davantage connaissance et pour les élèves français de faire l'expérience d'une journée scolaire dans un lycée irlandais.

From March 9th to 15th, we had the pleasure of hosting TY students from Lycée Fénélon Sainte-Marie in Paris as part of a student exchange programme. This programme, established in 2022, has been a great success ever since.

A welcome breakfast was organized for the French students, providing an opportunity for both groups to get to know each other better and for the French students to experience a school day in an Irish school.

Par Mme Laetitia Tessier and Mme Jane Magan

Au Luxembourg



On the 13th – 15th of March, I went to on a trip to Luxembourg with Damian Colazurdo, Evelyn Roche and Ms Travers, representing Newpark and Ireland at the French youth debating competition Ambassadeurs / Ambassadrices en Herbe in Luxembourg.

We were able to take part in the competition as Newpark has been awarded the Label Franc Éducation, and the competition brings together students from across Europe to develop public speaking, critical thinking, and intercultural dialogue skills. Students research global issues and present their ideas in French, taking on the role of “young ambassadors” who promote dialogue, engagement, and respect between cultures.



The theme of this year's competition was artificial intelligence: “L'IA, une révolution au bénéfice de l'humain ?” (AI: A revolution for the benefit of humans?). Following a national selection process, we were chosen to represent their Western Europe zone final.

We arrived in Luxembourg late on Tuesday night and after checking in to our hotel we went straight to bed. We arrived in the school at eight o'clock, where we were told what our theme was. We then had one hour to prepare our arguments and speeches.

As we were the only school participating in our zone of Northwest Europe, we were the last to present our



arguments, and rather than debating against another team, we had to record a speech that will be sent for judging.

We are now awaiting confirmation of whether we will advance to the world final, a three-day event held in Paris this October.

Overall, it was an excellent experience, and I feel I have learnt a lot and my French has improved significantly.

By Theo Egan, TY

DEL F Awards

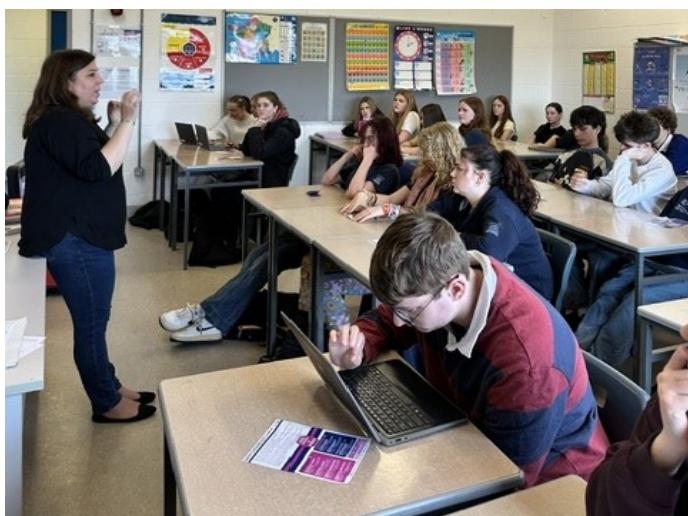


Un grand bravo à tous nos élèves de section européenne de la 5^e à la Terminale qui ont passé leurs examens de DELF en 2025. Nous sommes toutes très fières de vous ! Une cérémonie de remise de diplômes était organisée à cette occasion le 27 mars en compagnie de la responsable des examens à l'Alliance française de Dublin, Lisa Lebras. Une belle cérémonie qui a conclu la journée dédiée à la section européenne.

A huge congratulations to all our European section students from 1st to 6th year who passed their DELF exams in 2025. We are all very proud of you! A graduation ceremony was held on March 27th, attended by Lisa Lebras, the exam service manager at the Alliance Française in Dublin. This was a beautiful ceremony which concluded the European Section Celebration Day.

Par Mme Laetitia Tessier

Euro Languages College Guest Speaker



Le 22 avril, nous avons eu le plaisir d'accueillir Marion Guilloux, la directrice générale de ELC (Euro Languages College) qui a présenté aux 3^e, 2^e et 1^{ères} les camps d'été français et allemands proposés en Irlande ainsi que les opportunités de jobs d'été offerts

par eux. Similaires aux camps d'irlandais, les camps ELC proposent deux semaines en immersion totale avec cours de langue et activités tout en français, allemand ou espagnol. C'est une opportunité fantastique pour des élèves de collège et lycée qui n'ont pas forcément l'occasion d'aller en France d'avoir accès à une expérience immersive, de gagner en confiance et de se faire aussi de nouveaux amis. Un grand merci à Marion pour son engagement et sa présentation !

On April 22nd, we had the pleasure of welcoming Marion Guilloux, the director of ELC (Euro Languages College), who presented to our 3rd, TY and 5th year students the French and German summer camps offered in Ireland, along with the summer job opportunities they provide. Similar to Irish Colleges, ELC camps offer two weeks of total immersion with language classes and activities conducted entirely in French, German, or Spanish. This is a fantastic opportunity for junior and senior students who don't necessarily have the chance to go to France to have an immersive experience, gain confidence, and make new friends. A big thank you to Marion for her dedication and presentation!

Par Mme Laetitia Tessier

Très Chic!



Félicitations aux sept gagnants de notre compétition du meilleur look français organisée à l'occasion de la journée dédiée à la Section Européenne! Allegra Zipser, Élise Nangle, Vichren Yosifov, Eva Mullins, Lilka Kerr, Juno Packham, and Camila Mullins avaient fière allure avec leurs bérets et style parisien!

Congratulations to the winners of our Best French Look competition, organised for European Section Celebration Day! Allegra Zipser, Élise Nangle, Vichren Yosifov, Eva Mullins, Lilka Kerr, Juno Packham, and Camila Mullins looked fantastic in their berets and Parisian style!

Par Mme Laetitia Tessier

Model United Nations



HuMUNgous. MonuMUNtal. MUNderful. These are just some of the words that I would use to describe Newpark's past year within Model United Nations. This year, Newpark has made it clear that Model UN is a crucial part of the community, and that it is here to stay.

Our year started strong, with Freshers Day turning in high numbers for first year interest. Club enthusiasm was at a high point, and both younger and older delegates were determined to get into the committee rooms as soon as possible.

In October came TERMUN, where Newpark delivered two high quality delegations to their doorstep, and made it so it wasn't only the torrential rain washing out the competition. Additionally, Co-chair Florence held down the E&E committee, setting the standard high for Newpark chairing this year.

Back at home base, Evelyn, William and Munaki, with the help of the whole Model United Nations Team, had been brewing something since April 2025. Something that would blow even the most sovereign delegates off their feet... ParkMUN 25! Yes, up next after TERMUN came ParkMUN, Newpark's very own Model United Nations Conference. Delegates from far and wide, Dublin to Galway, came out to take part in two days of nail-biting debate, hilarious media confrontations, and one incredible conference. The conference succeeded with shining stars, and the high standard of quality for a school in just its third year of conference-making, cemented our conference among the Model United Nations national community.

Alas, the rest of our 2025 came quietly with the ending of ParkMUN in November, and no Newpark delegate

would raise their placard or ask a Point of Information at a conference until January, when BelvoMUN kicked off. An absolute Belvo Blast it was, with club member and previous head of chairs at ParkMUN William Kehoe taking home a delegate award for his persuasive performance in DISEC. Everyone had a great time, and Newpark's future in Model United Nations seemed bright.

And bright it would be. Newpark would close the year off with three more conferences: WCD, HSD and WICKMUN all were enthralling for our delegates and chairs. A huge effort was made in the new year to encourage newer delegates to attend the conferences, and it most certainly did work. Quality of debate carried from the club room out to the conferences, and I congratulate all delegates who had the bravery and courage to head out to a conference and speak their mind. I'm certain your words had a profound impact on the conversation of committee. Well done!

And that brings us to here. One year later. Slightly poorer in cash, but richer with the memories woven into each delegate and chairs' suits. Model United Nations at Newpark is shining just as bright and are just as determined as they were stepping into committee for the first time this year back in September. And we have plans to carry that into the future. With William as our Secretary General, Florence Chipperfield as our Head of Chairs, and myself as General of the President Assembly, plans for ParkMUN 2026 are already coming together for next November. And we would love every single one of you to be a part of it with us.

If you have any interest in world politics, speaking your mind, debate, or getting to hear differing opinions from your own, I'd wholly encourage you to join Model UN. There is a huge community here to support you in developing as a delegate, and I promise that the memories you will make at conferences in your committees by joining Model United Nations will stand with you for a long time.

Huge thank you to Ms Rider and Ms Kavanagh, who have supported and served as brilliant advisors this whole year for us. MUN could not have been done without you!

And finally, all those wishing to make a point of information to the floor, please refrain from raising all placards until next year.

Until then!

By James Carter, 5th Year

Wear Red Day

The Anti-Racism Club organised a very successful Wear Red Week with lots of effort going into making it both educational and entertaining. On Thursday we organised a board games competition in M5. Here we brought board games from all different cultures to play which was an amazing way to celebrate diversity within the school and expose students to different cultures! Students from all different year groups battled it out in all sorts of games fighting for the jelly snakes which were up for grabs for whoever won. The school was also decorated with red bunting and balloons throughout the week, which added a positive tone to the building.



We also introduced an anonymous note box where students could share thoughts about racism in the school. This box was an important part of the week as it gave us an insight to understanding Racism within the school.

On Friday students were encouraged to wear red in a stand against racism. Members of the Club collected donations around the school which were then in turn donated to the Immigration Council of Ireland. On the same day we also hosted a huge ping pong tournament in the GPA with an incredible 34 players taking part. The competition was taken very seriously by all competitors with some quality skill on display. After a lot of intense matches, the final came down to Paul (the clear favourite) vs Piran McSweeney. In the end, Paul claimed victory, eternal glory and the title of reigning Wear Red Week Ping Pong Champion of the Year! She showed some incredibly elite skills proving he truly is the best in the school.

A huge thank you must go to Mr Smyth who has given up every single Friday lunchtime without hesitation to help organise everything and somehow managed to keep a group of extremely chaotic students productive. Overall, it was an enjoyable week that brought people

together while also highlighting an important message. For anyone interested in joining or seeing what the Anti-Racism Club is about don't hesitate to come on down! We meet every Friday lunchtime in the MF1, and everyone is welcome.

By David Rankin, 5th Year

Denim For Dementia Day



In February the school donned their denims to celebrate Denim for Dementia Day. It was cool to see everyone wearing denim all around the school.

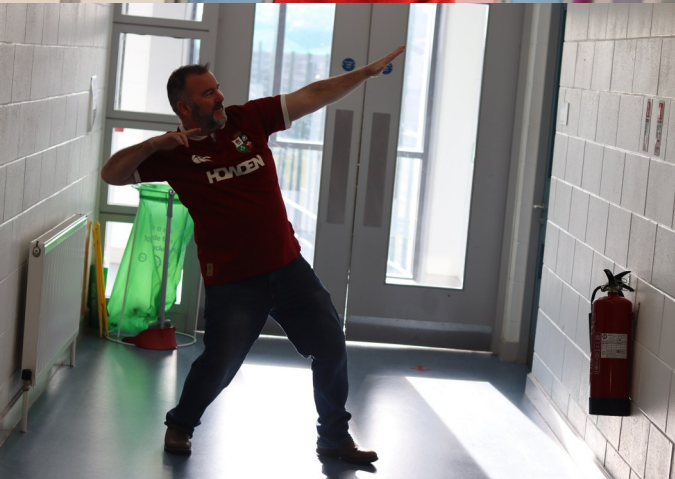
The campaign aims to raise awareness about dementia while also fundraising for the Alzheimer Society of Ireland. Over €700 was collected, well done to everyone who was involved.

Overall, I think it was a great day for raising awareness and learning more about dementia and who it affects.

By Naima Clarke, 1st Year



Wear Red Day Photos



Anti-Racism Training for Staff



In February I led an Anti-Racism Workshop where teachers met with students to explore young people's experiences of racism in school using anonymised case studies from other settings to ensure comfort and safety. The teachers who have taken part so far are colleagues within the Wellbeing space of SPHE and CSPE.

This year I completed a post-graduate programme in DCU where an assignment required us to identify and fill a gap within Wellbeing. I focused on anti-racism training, which is still not a formalised part of teacher education. Existing practices and policies are not adequate, and racism is unfortunately increasing. Many prefer to shy away from the discomfort it causes. My initiative has gained recognition in DCU, culminating in being invited to lecture the next cohort and present at the upcoming SPHE conference on how to scaffold actions that address discrimination that supports all students, particularly those most affected or minoritised.

voluntary and they are assured that they are not required to share personal stories, during the pair-discussions with teachers.

Training in this space is particularly sensitive, given how racism runs so deep within the social psyche, traversing historical, inter- and intra-personal, institutional and systemic realms, allowing all sorts of unfair harmful norms to persist. For me it is also personal. As the mother of mixed-heritage teenagers, who frequently experience racist slurs and marginalisation, I am a passionate ally. I am also close to the main editor/contributor of the National Youth Council of Ireland's anti-racism and inclusion publications and training, giving me an advantage in collating the research, and developing the Anti-Racism Training Toolkit for Teachers.

I look forward to expanding this work and encourage anyone interested to explore the NYCI e-learning resource: www.youth.ie/training/understanding-racism-for-youth-workers/ Work with our students to promote actions to make improvements in the school culture and practices are ongoing.

By Ms Kim Achari

The Anti-Racism workshop was organised by Ms Achari and the Anti-Racist Group in an effort to show teachers examples of racism in school communities. As students paired up with teachers, we were given case studies and discussed how we could improve the school atmosphere and policies to prevent these scenarios in the future. Everyone responded with great enthusiasm, and the Anti-Racist Group is hoping to hold more sessions in the future. I'm really glad I was able to attend.

By Rania Prentice, 5th Year



My approach places young people at front and centre as experts through their lived experience. It is essential that students feel supported as they help to explore these uncomfortable scenarios: participation is

The Redbrick Report



Nutgrove Shopping Centre



Today, we went on a trip to Nutgrove Shopping Centre for Christmas shopping. We took the school bus at 10:00 a.m. and arrived at 10:30 a.m. Once we arrived, we had a snack before doing anything else, and by 11:00 a.m. we began our shopping.

We visited a variety of shops, including Tesco, Dunnes, Penney's, Boots, Flying Tiger, Carrig Donn, CEX, EuroGiant, and Dealz. At 1:00 p.m., we went to McDonald's for lunch, where we discovered a Grinch socks meal deal, which I decided to get.

After lunch, we visited some other shops across the road from Nutgrove Shopping Centre. By 2:00 p.m., we got back on the school bus to head back to school, arriving at 2:30 p.m. Overall, it was an amazing trip, and I would definitely go back.

By Andrew Russell, 6th Year

Honeypark Playground

On the 23rd of March, the Redbrick Building went on a trip to the playground in Honeypark. We travelled there by taking the L25 Dublin Bus. The purpose of the



trip was to play and have fun together. The group included Ethan, Andrew, Eoin, Ms Ryan, Helen, and Avril.

My favourite part of the trip was playing tag in Honey Park. One thing I would change about the trip would be to spend more time in Honey Park and focus only on activities there.

By Ethan Webb, 2nd Year

Marley Park Playground

On the 2nd of March, the Redbrick Building went on a trip to Marley Park. The purpose of the trip was to visit the playground and go for a walk.

We travelled to Marley Park on the Newpark school bus and returned using the S8 Dublin Bus. My favourite part of the trip was going to the playground. One thing I would change is spending more time there.

By Eoin Acres, 2nd Year



Tallaght Shopping Centre

On Monday, the 20th of April, we went to Tallaght by bus. When we arrived, we visited several charity shops, including Vincent's, the Irish Cancer Society shop, Vision Ireland, and Smyths. Ms. Ryan bought a candle while we were there.

After shopping, we went to the park and spent some time on the playground. We then got the bus back to Newpark.

By Eoin Acres, 2nd Year

TY Times

Museum of Literature Ireland Trip



Ms Devis kindly took her TY English class on a trip to see the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI) in town in January.

We left school after reg and got the S8 (which was late, unsurprisingly) and the Luas to Stephen's Green where the museum is located, and we went inside to meet our tour guide. She was an ex-Newparker who was very enthusiastic about literature!



We went upstairs first, and did a workshop about Irish myths and legends. We were told about various figures from these ancient Irish tales, such as banshees, the fear gorta, and selkies, and we had to write or draw about them based on a couple of different prompts!

Then we were taken on a tour of the museum, where we saw copies of Ulysses translated into loads of different languages, and lots of interactive exhibits about Irish literature - "sound showers" of different quotes being read aloud, hanging headsets where you could listen to authors talking about their work, a wall where you could write something on a piece of paper and stick it up for future visitors to read, and a short film based on Ulysses, which was very interesting as it used a lot of the obscure language that was used in the book!

On the whole, it was a really interesting and enjoyable experience to learn more about Irish literature and history! Thanks so much to Ms Devis for facilitating the trip!

By Romy Burke, TY

The Newspaper Fashion Show

Best Overall: Beóán Kenny

Best Girl: Marta Piaseczna

Best Boy: Vichren Yosifov

Best Swag: Scott Murphy

Most Creative: TakiTora Sé BouAynaya



Exhibits A, B and C



In February, the two TY Art classes went into the city centre to see the exhibitions in the National Gallery and the RHA.

We met outside the National Gallery at 10:00 and got into our groups for the tour. While waiting outside we met Micheál Martin who was on his way out from a conference. He was kind enough to stop for a chat with the art students and we took some photos with him after.

In the National Gallery we got to see the Portrait Prize exhibition. It was an amazing exhibition and some of the paintings were practically photos, the detail was impeccable. My favourite painting was 'Me and My Curls' by Rohan Agrawal. I thought it was a funny painting as there was so much personality in it and it brought a smile to my face when I saw it for the first time.



In the RHA we were brought on two guided tours. The first one was all mechanical and was about the study of bogs. It was interesting but the meaning behind it was a bit confusing.

The second exhibition we got to see was about consumerism. This one was quite humorous and had lots of brightly coloured pieces scattered around the



room. It was a very interesting exhibition and I would highly recommend trying to go in and see it while it is still there.

By Kaia Berzins-Fleming, TY

Young Economist of the Year



This year, the TY Business classes entered the Young Economist of the Year Awards. The national finals took place in O'Reilly Hall, UCD, on the 5th of May. This event celebrates innovation, critical thinking, and real-world economic analysis among students from across the country. Our Business students represented the school with great enthusiasm, showcasing thoughtful and creative projects on a wide range of economic topics.

Their hard work and dedication were reflected in the outstanding results achieved. Two projects were awarded gold medals, four groups earned silver medals, and a further two projects received bronze awards.

At the event, all participants had the opportunity to listen to speakers from different organisations and universities, who also presented the awards. We are proud of everyone involved and look forward to building on this success in the years ahead.

By Ms Niamh Carr

Cleaning The Coastline



For my Transition Year Community Action, I worked with Flossie and The Beach Cleaners to clean rubbish off beaches. Every week we would go to a beach along the DART line and proceed to pick up all the rubbish we could find and put it in bags. Then we would take photos of the bags full of rubbish and dispose of it in the bins. The beaches included Killiney, Seapoint, Monkstown, Salthill, Dun Laoghaire West Pier and Dun Laoghaire East Pier.

We worked in groups of two to four. I worked with my classmates Sol McCullough and Vihren Yosifov for the first module and then just with Sol for the second and third. We found many surprising objects along the beaches. The most common rubbish included plastic bottles, crisp packets and newspapers. The item I was most shocked to find was a large long iron stick at Killiney that we had to leave by the bins since it was too big to dispose of.

Group x Weight Collected	KG
Elin, Ginevra & Misha	45.25
Jamie, Sol & Vichren	91.1
Andrew, Arthur & Beóán	52.65
Cal, Nathan & Ronan	47.1
Connie, Jasmine & Sadhbh	124.5
Total	360.6

As a community action, beach cleaning is a worthy one because it helps others in more ways than one: cleaning up the beaches to make them healthier, preventing rubbish from flowing into the sea and making the beaches more appealing to visit. We can be very proud of what Newpark's Beach Cleaners did this year, removing over 360 kg of rubbish from local beaches.

By Jamie Cottrell, TY

Flat White Please! – TY Barista Training



During Catering class, the TYs took part in a barista training course with the Dublin Barista School. They gave us a brief outline of what they do and showed us each part of the espresso machine before demonstrating how to make a shot of espresso. With the guidance of two professional baristas, we then put our skills to the test, learning how to pull the perfect espresso shot and refine our latte art. We got the chance to make our own coffee, with most people opting for a mocha.

After an unexpected fire drill, we returned to put our new skills into practice by making flat whites for some of our favourite teachers, with one even being hand delivered all the way to an injury prone staff member in the Redbrick. Coffees were made available to interested staff, and it was a great opportunity to share what we had learned. Even though many of the class are not regular coffee drinkers, everyone had a lot of fun and picked up skills that will definitely be useful in the future. With talent like this brewing, it is safe to say the future of coffee making culture in South Dublin is in very capable hands.



By Róisín McDonnell-Scheer, Juliet Brady and Freya Oak, TY

Chocced Full of Fun



On the 23rd of March 2026, the two catering classes, led by Ms Farlow and Ms Mahon, went on an exciting trip to the Butlers Chocolate factory. It was a fun and enjoyable day that everyone really liked.

When we arrived, we were given a guided tour of part of the factory. We saw how the chocolates are shaped, carefully decorated, and then put into boxes ready to be sold. It was interesting to see how neat and organised the whole process is.

We also watched a short video about the history of Butlers Chocolates. It showed how the company started and how it grew into a well known brand.

One of the best parts of the trip was tasting the chocolates. We tried different kinds and flavours, and



they all tasted really nice. It was great to taste them after seeing how they are made.

At the end of the visit, we got the chance to make our own chocolate Easter eggs. This was a really fun activity and a great way to finish the trip. Overall, it was a great trip.

By Gingi Data and Martha Macken-Hall, TY

RCSI Mini Med



This term, we had the pleasure of attending an online 'Mini Med' course with the RCSI. We did it for Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Many credited professionals gave talks, and we engaged in some activities throughout the week. One of the talks was all about transplants, we got to watch a real video of a surgery. It was very interesting but kind of disgusting. The other topics included were Dentistry, Irish Sports Teams medical teams, Pharmaceuticals and Physio. These were all very informative and we got an insight as to what college life is like from some of the current students in the college. One of our favourite topics was when they spoke about manufacturing drugs. This was very interesting as it gave us a better understanding of the process of making pharmaceuticals.

All the talks were linked with the RCSI college and their courses. This was all very useful as we are currently thinking of our subject choices for Leaving Cert and our future ahead after school. We are very grateful to have been given the opportunity to get an insight into the medical world and how it works.

By Eve Byrne and Lucja Kalinowska, TY



A Tale of Two Interviews



On Interview Day, when I arrived in school, my whole year group was dressed in business attire, which was funny to see as it was very different from what we would usually wear. I could definitely sense some nerves from my peers with the day ahead of us.

We all sat in the GPA after registration, waiting for our allocated time slots and practicing interview questions with friends. All of my friends had their interviews before mine, so I had a good idea of how it was going to go. I surprisingly wasn't very nervous, as I had heard my interviewer was quite laid back.

When it was my turn, I headed over to the Redbrick, as my interview was being held in one of the offices. I had a great day and the interview went really well - I got the job! It was really enjoyable and definitely a highlight of TY.

By Kaia Berzins-Fleming, TY



Our interview day was nothing short of an adventure, with people running about trying to get to their interviews (myself included) and others rushing around serving teas and coffees (also myself included). It was a day that seemed to go on forever — and I'm happy it did.

The morning of interview day started the way any normal day starts for me: waking up late and then running to my mum to ask her for something fancy to wear. I rushed out of the house only to discover that my bus was CANCELLED, and the next one wasn't for another twenty minutes, meaning I would definitely be



late for school. It was my only option.

I took the bus and arrived at about ten to nine, thinking it would be fine because registration was just over and I could quietly sign in at the library. But as I walked through the GPA, a swarm of people ran up to tell me that my interview was NOW.

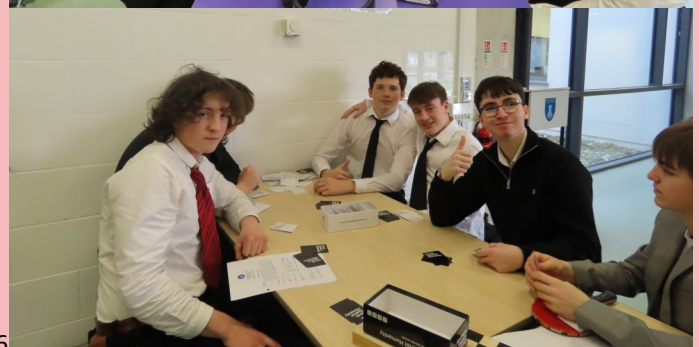
So I ran.

I ran all the way from the GPA to the interview room and arrived in the most dishevelled manner possible — but oh well.

I fixed myself up, shook hands with the interviewer, nervously introduced myself, and somehow managed to say hello TWICE. From there, though, the interview took off. The only issue was my socks. They were pink and teal with pastries on them — not exactly professional. When I got home and told my mum about it, she said it builds character, and honestly, I agree. They are some great socks.

The interview generally went well, with a few “umms” and “aaas,” as all first interviews do, but the feedback I received was to be proud of myself, not to be so shy, and above all, to be caaaaaaalm.

By Penelope Ferretti, TY



Wonder Walls



We are incredibly proud of our TY Community Action students for their amazing work on a very special project at the National Orthopaedic Hospital Cappagh.

Over the past few months, students worked closely with Mr King to create a series of beautiful murals for the hospital's physiotherapy gym. What was once a plain clinical space has now been transformed into a bright, welcoming environment full of colour, creativity, and positivity. The murals are already helping to make treatments a little easier for young patients by providing comfort, distraction, and something cheerful to focus on during difficult days.

The project has received huge praise from the hospital, with staff describing the students as “*an absolute credit to Newpark Comprehensive School.*” The response has been so positive that the hospital's Facilities Department is now planning to permanently install the murals there.

The hospital also plans to formally recognise the students, their teacher, and Newpark Comprehensive School beside the artwork - a lovely tribute to all the hard work and care that went into the project.

A word from the artists

We worked on the Cappagh mural in Newpark throughout the year and it was a great trip bringing it to the hospital and seeing it get put together again.

You could really see how a piece of art lights up the room and it was really rewarding to see all of our hard work in its new home.

By Kaia Berzins-Fleming, TY



LCA Spotlight

The Swim Gala



On the 14th of Jan 2026, 5LCA hosted a swimming gala for 1st years as part of our general education task. A lot of work went i n t o

preparing for the gala and despite a few setbacks the day finally arrived.

The first years were all herded over to the swimming pool area for periods 3 and 4 for the races to begin. There were 33 competitors in the gala across all form groups. All the other 1st years were cheering them on from the side. The event ran well supported by motivating music from our resident DJs Calum and Ben.

Thank you to everyone who took part and everyone who was involved in the organization of the gala.

By Oisin Smith, 5th Year

Here's an account from one of the winners:

The first year swim gala was so much fun! All the first years gathered at the side of the pool to watch the races and support the participants. Everyone taking part stood near the end of the pool, ready to start! Loud music was playing, getting everyone in the mood.

The races were so much fun, and I don't think anyone had a bad time there. The whole experience was so, so much fun and such a great introduction to swimming in Newpark. I would 100% do it again, and I'm sure everyone else would as well!

By Róisín Casey, 1st Year

The Winners

Front Crawl (Girls) Amelia Waldron 1CD
Boys Front Crawl (Boys): Hunter Houston 1MKS
Breaststroke (Girls): Senna Mercer 1CTS
Breaststroke (Boys): Hunter Houston 1MKS
Backstroke (Girls): Amelia Waldron 1CD
Backstroke (Boys): Hunter Houston 1MKS
Mixed Form Relay: 1MKS

5 LCA Enterprise Week



From Friday 15th to Tuesday 19th May, 5th Year LCA were running their own Business Enterprise. We had a great few days selling home-made Brazilian Lemonade and bags of sweets.



Amelia, Bláthnat, Keisha and Sophie were responsible for the amazing signage and artwork and Lulu provided the lemonade recipe. TJ and Harry did a great job with the Sandwich board to promote the stand!

Oisin and Zachary looked after all things financial and

Ben and Callum ran up to Dunnes to collect ice and helped construct the stand.

Well done to all!

Congratulations!

Henry Simpson's award for the Rebecca Little prize was greeted with wild applause from the whole Newpark community at the recent summer assembly.



The prize-winner for this award is elected by all of First Year. The prize is for the Sixth Year that the First Years found most supportive, encouraging and kind to the over the course of the year. Not surprisingly, Henry's positive outlook made a big impact. He is pictured here receiving his award.

When Art Takes Flight



For my Leaving Certificate Craft and Design project I was tasked with creating a fashion print based on the theme of 'Flight.' I researched the theme of flight and decided to create my own image of an owl. Angels, rockets, wind, and even airplanes were explored.

I find owls really interesting birds. I am fascinated with the way they look, especially their heads and wings. They are awesome animals. The design I created was based on my understanding of owls. I sketched my original piece onto a canvas and then photographed my finished piece. We then printed my sketch onto different types of fabric printing paper. I decided on using a cotton t-shirt as my trial prints on velvet and satin were not as clear or practical.

I used a heat press to transfer the image onto a white cotton t-shirt. I decided to use a white T-shirt and a black and white print. The print will last longer, and it looks pretty cool! A big shout out to Ms Feighery for all her advice and support.

By Illia Mykhasyk, 6th Year

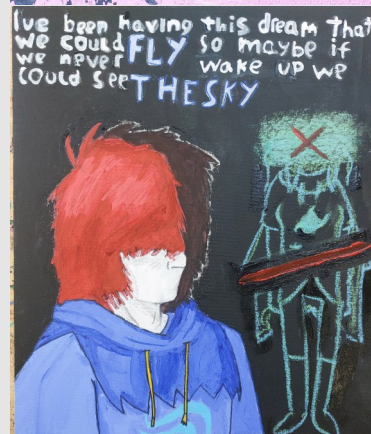
Craft and Design

This collection of artwork has been created by both 5th and 6th Year LCA Craft & Design students. The work explores a range of creative approaches and techniques, with each student responding to the brief in their own individual way.

The themes inspiring these pieces were "texture", "flight", and "the pitch". Each theme encouraged experimentation with materials, form, and ideas, resulting in a diverse and expressive collection of work that reflects both skill development and personal interpretation.

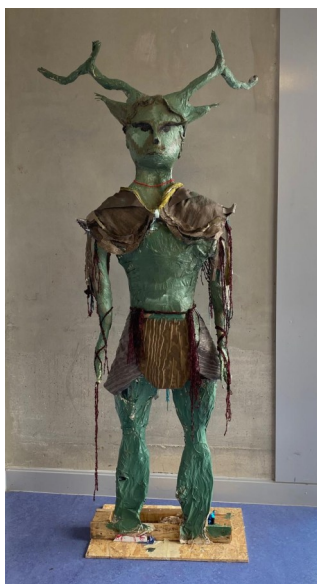
By Ms Trudy Feighery

Top right image by Bláthnat Quinn is featured on the front cover of this issue of the Newpark newsletter.



TY Sculpture Exhibition

Inspired by Antony Gormley



Our Transition Year art students recently completed an exciting sculptural project inspired by the work of contemporary British sculptor Antony Gormley.

The brief challenged students to design and create a life-size sculptural figure exploring how the human body can communicate ideas, emotions, and relationships with space and environment.

Drawing inspiration from themes found throughout Gormley's work — including presence, isolation, connection, scale, and the body as a universal form — students developed highly individual and thoughtful responses to the project brief. Through extensive research, rough concept drawings, experimentation with materials, and reflective planning, each student produced a unique sculptural piece that demonstrated both technical skill and strong conceptual understanding.

The finished sculptures showcase an impressive diversity of ideas and approaches. Some pieces explore emotional vulnerability and identity, while others investigate movement, stillness, belonging, or the relationship between the individual and the wider world. The variety of materials, poses, textures, and spatial arrangements reflects the creativity and originality of the students involved.

These remarkable works are

now on display in the GPA, where members of the school community can experience and interact with the sculptures firsthand. The exhibition transforms the space into an engaging visual environment and encourages viewers to reflect on the role of the human figure in contemporary art.

We are extremely proud of the dedication, imagination, and artistic maturity shown by our Transition Year students throughout this project. Their ability to successfully interpret a complex contemporary art brief and produce such high-quality final pieces is a fantastic achievement. We encourage everyone in the school community to visit the exhibition and celebrate the students' outstanding work.

Mr David King

Joiners

In Ms Feighery's TY photography class, students explored the work of British Artist David Hockney's 'joiners'. These are photographic collages created in



the early 1980s by assembling dozens or hundreds of overlapping Polaroid snapshots or 35mm prints into a single, cohesive image.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Kate Glanville who was awarded a special mention in the Texaco Children's Art Competition 2026.

Copy That!



A Family by Louis le Brocquy

Following on from our trip to National Gallery Ireland in February, Ms Feighery's Art students completed a short project - re-creating their favourite images from the gallery collection.

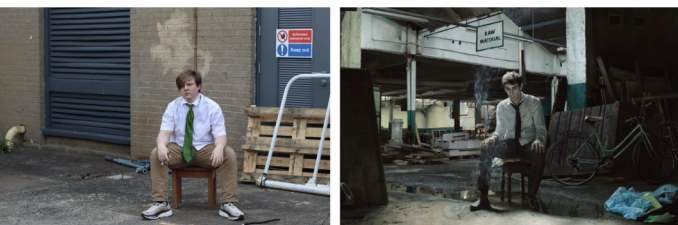
I bet you can hardly tell the difference between the original painting and the TY photos!



The Taking of Christ by Caravaggio



The Waste Land, by Francis O'Toole, 2025



The Waste Land, by Francis O'Toole, 2025

Let's Face It



In TY art class students created a self portrait in acrylic paint. The brief was to create a portrait painting using two complementary colours, Incorporate the tints, shades and tones of the two complementary colours.

Students had to focus on the proportions of the human face, colour choices, paint mixing and of course paint application. The final results were fun and exciting.

By Ms Trudy Feighery

Headers



Having looked at the sculptural work of Renaissance Donatello (not to be mixed up with the teenage mutant ninja turtle), TY students created clay head sculptures of famous or notable figures.

The level of expression and facial accuracy in these sculptures is remarkable.

By Ms Trudy Feighery



The Photographer's Pick

After three years of being behind the lens for Newpark, it's time to say goodbye and move on to new adventures. To celebrate my time as school photographer, I looked back at some of my favourite photos I've taken during my time in Newpark.



My first picture for Newpark was on March 29th, 2023 at the Leinster rugby league final between Newpark and St Columba's.



Another unforgettable moment was when the Senior boys hockey team qualified for the Senior Cup final for the first time since 1997. The post match celebrations were incredible and made for some amazing photos.



My last match photography event for Newpark was on February 26th, 2026 at the senior and junior rugby league finals against St Benildus.



One photo I always get compliments on is a perfectly timed try being scored.

It is one of those moments where everything just comes together at the right second!



One of my favourite shots captures the Senior boys cup final between Newpark and Wesley College. I love how it shows the packed stands and the players' perspective, really capturing the atmosphere before the game.



© Henry Simpson Photography



The first Newpark Battle of the Bands in October 2024 was another highlight. I love the shot of the winner being announced, with the crowd celebrating in the background.



Finally, one of my favourite images is from a performance in the Hunter Theatre. The stage was lit up beautifully and I managed to sneak to the back just in time to capture the moment before the song ended.

By Henry Simpson, 6th Year

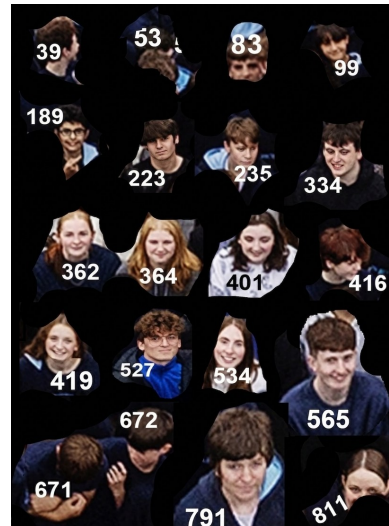
Join the Photography Team!



I started photography last year, and it has quickly become one of my favourite hobbies. Recently, I have photographed the Battle of the Bands, the short plays, and many other events. Photography is great fun, and I would really encourage anyone to get involved. We are always looking to recruit for next year, whether it's sports or the arts you're interested in. If you are interested in joining the team, you can sign up using the sheet outside the T floor art rooms.

By Fionn McNally, 5th Year

Guess Who?



Nearly three years ago, our entire school, students, teachers, SNAs, office staff, caretakers, everyone, gathered in the front of the school for a once-in-a-generation photograph, to celebrate 50 years of Newpark. The picture captured the whole school community, in a single moment. It was

one of those rare days when everyone stood shoulder to shoulder, smiling up at the camera, not realising how quickly time would move on.

As I looked up at the camera as the photo was being taken, I remembered a similar photo taken in my own school days, many many years ago. It was a brilliant picture, but there was one problem: nobody could remember who half the people were. The faces were there, but the names were gone. A whole piece of school history had faded simply because nobody wrote it down. I was determined that the same thing would not happen here.

So, I started a project: numbering everyone in the photograph and matching each number to a name. It sounded simple at first - until I realised just how many people were in the picture. It was going to take much longer than I thought. Still, bit by bit, the list began to fill up. People helped. Staff helped. Even a few pupils helped. And now, after a lot of detective work, I'm almost finished. Almost.

So, this is where you come in.

If you spot yourself, or someone you know, among the remaining unlabelled numbers, please let me know by contacting me at the email address below. Bear in mind that it'll be harder to recognise these people as these images are nearly three years old.

Every name added helps preserve a little piece of our school's story. In years to come, when students look back at this photograph, they won't just see faces. They'll see people, memories, friendships, and a moment in time that belonged to all of us.

Let's finish it together.

(patrick.faull@newparkschool.ie)

By Mr Patrick Faull

The Green Pages

Our Shoes



In Module 3, the 4LRG Sustainability class with Ms. Dempsey took part in the Our Shoes campaign as part of our end-of-module assessment. At the start, we separated into groups and organised who would do each role. Our group was tasked with going around the school and making announcements to the Junior Cycle. Other groups went around the Senior Cycle students, TYs, and teachers, while another group collected boxes for the shoe donations.

After five days of collecting in the mornings, we were very successful and managed to gather around 150 pairs of shoes. This was amazing, as all of these shoes are being donated to children in Southern Africa who must play sports and walk very long distances to school every day.



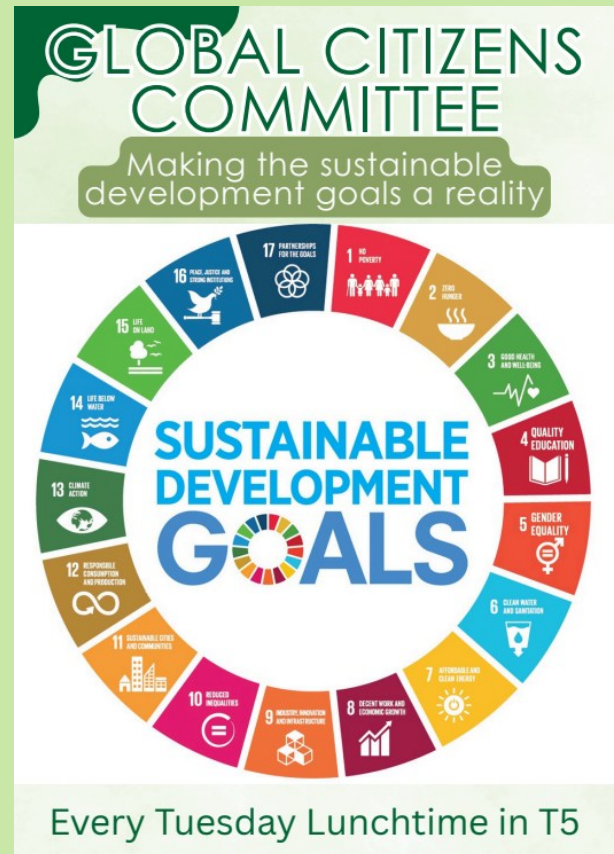
The shoes were picked up by DPD on May 1st, who collected them for free to support the Our Shoes charity, and they are now en route to their new homes. Even though the deadline was on the 24th of April, we continued to collect shoes donated by staff and students

afterwards. We are very happy with the results of the campaign and think it is a wonderful cause.

Thank you to everyone who helped out and donated shoes over the past weeks, and especially thank you to Ms Dempsey for all the help along the way.

By Kaia Berzins-Fleming and Isabella Neary, TY

Bin It Right!



This year our work on the Newpark Global Citizens Committee focused mainly on addressing the school's waste problem. This links with SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Waste, in particular food waste, is a global problem and we're proud to play our part. Starting from the beginning of this year, we formulated a plan to tackle waste, with a focus on food waste. We sent out a survey to get a better understanding of what people think and do about food waste. We have talked to and presented to our fellow students, members of the school staff and the cleaning staff to spread awareness of the school's food waste problem and our proposed solutions.

The proposed solution will soon become a reality with the arrival of new bin units made up of black, brown



and green. This will mean getting rid of the current mixed waste bins and the school community will use one of the three options – black, brown or green for their waste.

We hope to incorporate the new system throughout the entire school. With a bit of luck and support from everyone, the way waste is managed is going to change for the better thanks to the new bins and increased awareness of this serious problem.

By Josh Crammond, 3NNR

Newpark's Plastic-Free Campaign



Newpark's journey to reducing plastic began in 2018, when a group of Transition Year students studying sustainability identified plastic as a growing problem and set out to make a change in their school community. Their project led to Newpark becoming the first plastic-free secondary school in Ireland, an achievement celebrated at a launch by former Minister, Catherine Martin.



Congratulations to 6th Year Natan Gorzelanczyk who won this year's Margaret Moloney award for Citizenship in recognition of his work with the Global Citizens Committee on improving waste reduction and effective recycling.

KOTG Uganda Trip Bake Sale



On Friday, 1st May, myself, Alessia Soporan, Allegra Zipser, Daniel Gifford, Andrew Breen, and Levi Clarke held a bake sale in aid of our mission trip to Uganda this July with an organisation called Abaana Ministries, which helps children break through poverty through education.

The bake sale was made possible thanks to the wonderful baking

provided by the team, as well as our friends and families. The school showed immense support, and the team raised over €250 for the trip in July, with all funds going towards outreach programmes for children living on the streets and the refurbishment of a school supported by the charity.



As part of the initiative, Newpark-branded reusable water bottles and coffee cups were created to encourage people to move away from single-use plastics. TY students have sold these every year since, and this year the Development Education Community Action group proudly took on the role.

We hope the Newpark community continues to recognise the importance of refusing single-use plastic, as small everyday choices can make a big difference in protecting our environment.

By Ms Maria O'Donnell

By Lily Drew, 6th Year

National Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration



On Sunday 25th of January, three Newpark TY students attended the 2026 National Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration at Kilmainham Hospital. We were honoured to be one of the four schools that read out the “Scroll of Names”, which is a list of names of Holocaust victims who are connected to Ireland in some way. A thank you to Ms French for helping us with the pronunciation of the names! I was very glad to be a part of it, as I think it is important that we remember each and every one of those names to prevent the victims from just becoming a statistic.

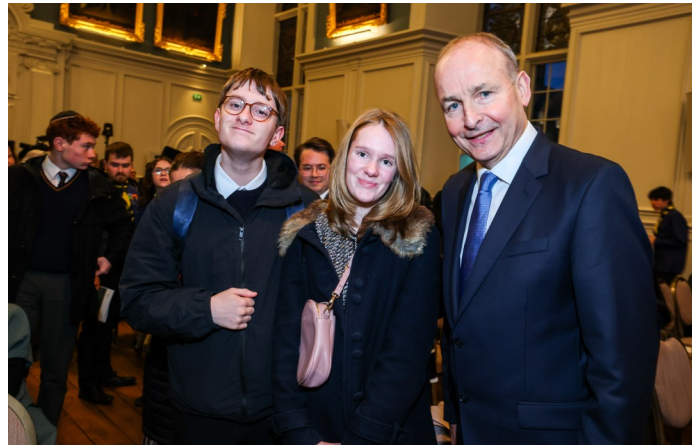
Before the ceremony began, we were given a briefing by my form teacher Ms French and by our hosts, Holocaust Education Ireland, about the significance of our role in the ceremony as the Readers of the Scroll of Names. We then practised reading on the stage, then it was time for a lunch break, then more practising. When it came time for us to read, we took all our knowledge to heart and performed it to the best of our ability.

The ceremony itself was very moving and interesting. It began with words from the Lord Mayor of Dublin and the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, and a statement written by Tomi Reichental was read out by his son, David. Tomi Reichental is a Holocaust survivor currently living in Dublin. In his statement, he talked about the hatred and the antisemitism he faced growing up, and his experiences in Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. The ceremony also featured information about the ghettos, the death camps, book burning and boycotts, the Evian conference, the Nuremberg Laws. A Roma song was performed by Monica Paszkowska, after which we read out the scroll of names.

The night ended with victim readings (such as a reading by Holocaust survivor, Suzi Diamond) and candle lighting. I found the memorial to be very informative and powerful, and I feel incredibly grateful that I got to attend and contribute to it.

I strongly believe that we should try to remember every bit about the horrors of the Holocaust, so that we can educate others about it and prevent something like this from ever happening again. It is especially important that we educate ourselves about it now, as anti-semitism is unfortunately alive and well.

This year, the memorial is especially significant as it highlights the importance of preserving historical truth in the face of growing misinformation and denial. Hearing Holocaust survivors’ and families’ stories was beyond moving and emotional; those stories are part of what brought injustice to light.



Remembering these victims at the memorial ensures that their stories are not forgotten and that the suffering they endured is acknowledged by future generations. It also gives people a space to reflect, mourn and show respect, helping to keep alive the memory of those who lost their lives. By involving students and younger generations, the commemoration helps to pass on the memory of the Holocaust, ensuring that its lessons are not forgotten.

By Molly Soden-Cowap, Jamie Cottrell & Clara Cottrell, TY

Deutschland Diaries

On Thursday the 5th of March, at the humble hour of 3:30 in the morning, the two 6th year history classes descended upon Dublin airport with the unique combination of fatigue and an overwhelming air of superiority over our fellow schoolmates who had chosen other option subjects.



We met with our gracious leaders, Mr Daly, Ms Dempsey, Mr Twamley and Ms Byrne, who were all, I assume, carefree and relishing the opportunity to take responsibility for 32 teenagers over four days in a foreign city. Once everyone was present and accounted for, and we had gone through the motions of check-in and security, we were given our first taste of freedom—two hours to take on Dublin’s illustrious Terminal 2 before our flight. Before we knew it, it was time to take to the sky.

After a two-and-a-half-hour flight, we touched down in Berlin. Our coach hadn’t arrived by this stage, so we had yet another opportunity to explore an airport. Many of us couldn’t resist indulging in a pretzel from the airport’s local bakery while we waited. Finally, the bus arrived, and after a quick stampede to claim the ever-coveted back seats, we found ourselves breezing down the Autobahn. With only four days to pack in many years’ worth of history, we wasted no time in hitting the sights.



Our first stop was the Soviet war memorial in Treptower park, which commemorates the 80,000 Soviet soldiers who died whilst fighting to capture Berlin during the Second World War. We wandered through the memorial and took in the various plaques, each bearing quotes translated into German from key Soviet figures (it was at this point that some of

us attempted to deploy our Leaving Cert level German to translate said quotes— but I won’t say who). Before leaving we of course had to take the inevitable and always poorly executed group photo.

Next, we briefly stopped off at the Berlin Wall and caused a nice hold up for passersby as we all queued to get a photo with the famous Berlin Wall kiss painting. After that we visited the Holocaust memorial, which



was located out in the open in the centre of the city. The memorial consisted of a large area filled with plain grey monuments. We learned that the memorial’s architect wanted each visitor to derive their own meaning from the ambiguous grey blocks, so we all spent a few minutes wandering around them and reflecting ourselves.

That brought an end to our tour, and we were then granted a precious two hours to explore the city ourselves before meeting back at the bus. Our free time started, as any free time in Berlin should, with a takeaway Doner Kebabs from an arguably questionable cafe in the city centre. Most of us opted for beef in our kebabs, but the bravest warriors among us made the bold choice of chicken. By now the 3:30am start had begun to catch up on us, and I think everyone was pleased when we finally made it to our hotel at around 4pm. There was much delight when the basement area of the hotel was discovered, and we quickly set about monopolising the room’s two pool tables.



Dinner was a bit of a point of contention over the three nights. I personally loved the food that was on offer in

the buffet, but many were a little put off by the selection of boiled eggs and pasta. Regardless of personal preferences, dinner was a fun occasion, and we managed to successfully take over the entire dining room each night. We made the impressively mature decision to stay in after dinner on this first night, and we all happily retired to our beds at about 10:30 after a day that had approached twenty hours long.

The wonderful symphony of teachers knocking on door after door rang through the halls of the City Light hotel the following morning. Getting up that day wasn't the easiest thing in the world, but the alluring promise of a breakfast buffet quickly lifted the spirits of the group. Once we had sufficiently fuelled up, we took to our beloved coach again, ready to conquer the streets of Berlin.

Our first activity was a tour of the city's Stasi prison. The tour guides were extremely enthusiastic and knowledgeable, and it was definitely one of my favourite parts of the trip. We walked all around the prison and even had the opportunity to pile into one of the cells to get a glimpse of what it was like for prisoners who were forced to live in cramped cells with fellow inmates. (Newpark lasted about five minutes before getting antsy).

The commute to and tour of the prison had taken a few hours altogether, so once we were finished, we headed back on to the coach and into the city centre. We were once again given two hours for lunch and wasted no time in hitting one of Berlin's more high-end establishments, the 'Schnitzery'. There we indulged in €10 take-away schnitzel bowls, which we promptly ate under the Berlin sun while reminiscing about what class we would be sitting in if we were back in Dublin.



Next up on the itinerary was a visit to the German Resistance Memorial Centre. We were led through exhibitions about the failed assassination plot against Hitler and learned about various German groups which resisted the Nazi regime. The centre had

lots of fascinating photos and documents, and we learned a lot about a side of Germany's history which we hardly cover in school.

For our final activity of the day, we visited Checkpoint Charlie, the most famous Berlin Wall crossing point between the East and West. The Checkpoint Charlie museum brought us chronologically through the history of the Berlin Wall, as well as some of the major events of the Cold War. Afterwards, we had the chance to stand by the remains of the checkpoint, although some of us were cruelly whisked away from the queue to pose for a photo with it because the coach, the real leader of the trip, was ready to bring us back to our hotel. A couple of us did manage to make a quick



trip to one of Berlin's never-ending supply of souvenir shops before we boarded the bus, where we debated buying 'I love Berlin' t-shirts. However, one glance at the price tags dispelled our desires fairly quickly.

After dinner that night, the highly anticipated moment finally arrived, as the students were let loose for a couple of hours to take on 'Berlin After Dark'. Dreams of dancing the night away in Berghain were somewhat dashed by the announcement of a 10:30pm curfew, but after some gruelling negotiations between students and teachers, we were rewarded with a 30-minute extension (everyone knows that things really get crazy between the hours of 10:30 and 11pm in Berlin) We didn't quite make it to Berghain, but the experience of using the U-bahn was all the hysteria that Newpark students needed.

Our third day began with a trip to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp memorial, located just outside of Berlin. It was a self-guided tour, but we all received headsets which played snippets of information about each part of the camp. We spent about two hours there, and it was certainly a very emotional and enriching experience. The camp's layout has been preserved, but

exhibitions had been added in some spots about specific people who had been imprisoned there. Suffice to say we all learned a lot and were impacted greatly by this visit.

Our afternoon activity was a visit to the Topography of Terror museum. This was an exhibition about Nazi terror in the years leading up to and during World War 2. Even though we learn about the types of atrocities that were committed by the Nazis in class, having photographs and personal responses from people impacted by the Nazi regime laid out in front of us really brought to life the scale of the violence and suffering which took place.



That night, following an exemplary show of punctuality by all students the night before, we were granted the precious gift of time. That's right, another 30-minute curfew extension! Newpark's diligent historians took once again to the streets of Berlin, and the night was ours (until 11:30pm on the dot, when it no longer was).

On our last day, we did a tour of a Berlin Bunker. This was my personal favourite activity, as we gained a real understanding of what life was like for people taking shelter during WW2 air raids. The rooms of the bunker had all been modelled to represent how they would have looked at the time, and it was fascinating to learn about all the things that were done to keep people calm during raids. We learned, for instance, that people were blatantly lied to about the bunker's capacity to withstand direct hits from bombs.

We were given free time for the rest of the afternoon before our flight, which we all spent in different places soaking up the last bits of the city. After a few blissful hours, we all met back at the hotel and embarked on one last coach ride to the airport.

The Berlin trip was undoubtedly the highlight of my time in Newpark. It completely exceeded all of our expectations (and there were a lot of expectations). We deepened our understanding of German history in a way which we never could have from reading a textbook, and we had some great laughs along the way. Thank you to all the teachers who helped make this trip happen, and especially to Mr Daly for all his efforts in organising it.

By Laila Mackey, 6th Year

An Udderly Brilliant Trip



On Thursday, me and my Geography class went to Michael Keegan's farm in Wicklow, which we were all looking forward to, especially Ms French. After hearing that the long touted trip to Iceland would not be happening, we realised that this and Shankill Beach were going to be our only Geography trips and that we should make the most of them.



We got very lucky with the weather. It was one of the sunniest, warmest days of the year, which saved me from possible disaster since I decided to wear my Crocs. The views from the top of the hills were so beautiful and looked exactly like something out of *The Sound of Music*, but most of our attention was on the puppy he brought around with us.

I did not expect the trip to actually relate to our course, but on the farm we saw a lot of what we have been studying in action, plus a few more detailed explanations about deer hunting that I kind of wish I could unhear.



Overall, it was a really nice break from all the Fifth Year stress and we are very grateful to Mr Lennon for organising it for us. It was definitely better than any trip to Iceland.

By Camilla Bolton, 5th Year

Exploring Sacred Spaces



On the 2nd of March, all the First Years went into the city centre to visit a variety of churches and temples as part of their World Beliefs short course. The aim of the trip was to help students experience different sacred spaces and learn about different world views, and everyone showed great curiosity by asking thoughtful questions throughout the day.

The first place we visited was a Sikh Gurdwara. We had to take off our shoes and socks and put on head coverings before going inside. Once we were in the hall, we got a talk on Sikhism which was very interesting. The speaker had to talk to us through a phone, and they held a microphone up to it so we could hear. Afterwards, we were given bread, coke and crisps. We learned a lot about equality and service, and it was a really cool experience.



Next, we went to a Buddhist temple. The temple was

very beautiful and intriguing. We had to take off our shoes but not our socks before going inside. There were over 500 plaques on the wall, all with the same image. We learned about the religion and got to ask questions. When we visited it was Lunar New Year, and there were pink and yellow cherry blossom trees with red envelopes on them. We were told that children receive money during Lunar New Year. The head monk, who was from England, spoke Vietnamese so someone translated for us. He also gave us colourful bracelets, which we were very grateful for.

After that, we visited a Roman Catholic church where we learned about how a deacon and a priest are different, including that a deacon can be married but a priest cannot. We were told about how the religion works, learned the names of different parts of the church and how the confession booth works, and had the chance to ask questions.

Our final stop was a Church of Ireland church. We learned that even though both churches are Christian, they practise the religion differently. We got to look around, explore the church and learn more about how it works.

Overall, it was a very interesting and enjoyable trip, and we are very grateful that we got the chance to go.

By Emma Šiliauskas and Sophie Cullen-Rolfe, 1st Year

From Bretzels to Buddha



Leaving Cert Religion involves a project, and the 5th years selected the brief on how the features of a sacred space help to express one's faith. The natural next step was for us (and the 6th years for good measure) to visit as many sacred places as possible.

Our first stop was the gorgeous St Teresa's Church. We were guided by a priest who may or not have agreed to do this because he thought we were all Catholic (luckily he didn't look up the school). The

church was gorgeously decorated, and its centrepiece was maybe the most Catholic thing I've ever seen: a marble, life-sized, dead Jesus Christ underneath the high altar. Sometimes there's a worry that religious leaders might be a little obsessed with tradition but thankfully our guide, and all those we met, were very down to earth and honest. When we asked about taking the eucharist (the transubstantiated body and blood of Jesus into bread and wine) we expected the Catholic to give a profound answer but the answer we got was undoubtedly better. To paraphrase: 'Well, you know yourselves, sometimes you just don't feel the power'. But before we could doubt this priest's faith, we saw him light up speaking about how each day he records one wonderful reminder of God. All are recorded in a single file named 'the Wonder file' (which had to be changed from 'the Beauty file' for fear of what the rest of the clergy might suspect).

We then headed to what was once Dublin's Jewish quarter, Portobello, and stopped for lunch in the historic Jewish Bretzel Bakery before going to the Irish Jewish Museum. The museum was fascinating but the main reason we went was because it was once a synagogue. I found the strictness of service to be a little overwhelming - The Torah is kept in a special cupboard that can only be accessed on certain times of the year, only by certain people, only read by certain people, only read in Hebrew, and two 'spotters' ensure any mispronunciation is corrected. But we did get a sense that this pursuit of perfection is out of respect for the one perfect being, God.



Our final destination was, of all places, Malahide Industrial Park. There we found an unassuming building (bar the gigantic Buddhist statues) which housed a Vietnamese Buddhist Temple. Personally, I had no knowledge of Buddhism, so it was brilliant to actually take part in some mindful Buddhist practices—especially after rushing around all day. One of the fascinating things we discussed was how Buddha used symbols from the surrounding culture to teach. So if Buddha was Irish, Buddhist imagery might've included



more three-leafed clovers and holy wells. Thank you Mr Lamprecht for making this trip possible.

By Ethan Canon Gonzalez, 5th Year

Christian Union



We have had another great term in CU and are excited for the Summer with all the camps and activities that many of our members will lead or take part in. We have continued to meet every Monday lunchtime in T11 for food, chats, games and treats! Our outgoing leaders have shared an encouraging thought or favourite verse each week which can warm the soul as we brace for another busy week.

A huge thank you to Alessia Soporan, Allegra Zipser and Lily Drew for all your leadership this year. We wish you all the very best as you sit the Leaving Cert and whatever will come next. We know God has great plans for your lives and we wish you every blessing as you continue on your journey of faith. It is our prayer that when good and bad times come, as they will, that you will know the love, comfort and guidance of God daily.

To end off the year, we had a fabulous day out with the Christian Union from Temple Carrig in Greystones. We met in Bray, went bowling, had lunch and took part in a fun and silly photo scavenger hunt! Thank you to Mr Lamprecht for organising us all year and welcome back Ms Rowan! This is the verse we left with to think about over the Summer.

Romans 15 v 13 May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him. So that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

By Ms Charis Rowan

Your School: Get Involved!



Did you know there are three student representative groups in Newpark that you can get involved in?

The Student Council is made up of elected representatives from each form in every year. Annual elections are held every September; the elected representatives choose a chairperson and meet regularly during the year. Mr Costigan works with the Student Council to discuss and help bring forward to staff, management or the wider school community issues of student concern or interest. Alice Gill was the Chair this year.

The Cultural Council supports the school ECA clubs



and runs whole school events such as Freshers Day, Halloween Festival, Valentine Roses and the Variety Show. They support other events such as Gold Week, Music Week, Book Week and Breakfast for the Soul. This year they were ably led by Allegra Zipser and Finlay Gleich with the support of Ms Johnston.

The Sports Council is reactivating itself this coming year and we need students from all years with an interest in Newpark sports, teams or active leisure and health to get involved in organising activities and exploring issues. Martha O'Flanagan is coordinating the new interest group who will meet in September to form the new Sports Council. Ms Carr, Mr Costigan and Ms Johnston will help get it up and running.

This year there were more than thirty ECA clubs active in Newpark as well as all of the Sports teams and



individual sports. Many of these ECA clubs were set up and/or are led by students with the background support of a staff member. Clubs this year ranged from MUN, Junior Drama and Badminton to Warhammer, Gardening, Crafts and Chess. Our newest club in development is Yoyo Club. If you are interested in setting up a lunchtime club or activity, contact Ms Johnston to explore and discuss your ideas.

Huge thanks to Alice, Allegra, Finley and all the leaders and active members of the Newpark councils, sports teams and ECA clubs for all you have given us this year. You bring fun, energy, creativity and community to the school.



This is your school: get involved and enjoy it! You can join the Cultural or Sports Council here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/CAUUNTz5h7>

or contact Ms Johnston, Ms Carr or Mr Costigan on Teams chat to express your interest or find out more.

Huge thanks too to all of the Newpark staff supporting and mentoring the myriad of Newpark clubs, teams and councils every year: you make it all possible.

By Ms Anna Johnston

Music Week



On the back of last year's success, Music Week returned bigger and better than ever. The week kicked off with a rare peek into the staff's favourite music. It was an opportunity for students to judge their teachers for once, and also a reminder that teachers exist beyond the classroom. Instead of the usual calm Wednesday morning, we had the pleasure of an 8 o'clock rave. Whether dancing or not, it is safe to say the whole school woke up!



Newpark Voices



On Thursday evening we had another successful Variety Show, featuring everything from classical music to original rock songs. On Friday we had Band T-shirt Day. It was wonderful to see so many people successfully finding a band's shirt that, in case they were asked, they could name five songs from.

A new addition to Music Week was a competitive element. We were challenged to identify the origin of the lyric "why do I smile at people who I would much rather kick in the eye". The next morning, we discovered the two types of people in this world: those who think they can somehow calculate the number of guitar picks in the jar, and those who are pure chancers (answers and winners below).

The week's final event was a lounge at lunchtime, where we had the Sixth Year final performances alongside some new voices. All in all, the week was a brilliant showcase of the exceptional musical talent and taste across Newpark.

The money from Music Week is donated to Music Generation Ireland. This is a fantastic charity that aims to provide equal access to music and music education for all children regardless of background. This week would not have been possible without the support of Ms Scott, Ms Fox, Ms Johnston, as well as the Cultural Council and Newpark Sports Centre.

By Ethan Canon Gonzalez and Joss Brooks, 5th Year

Music Week prize winners:

The Guess the Lyric prize was won by Elise Nangle who correctly identified the song as The Smiths, "Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now".

The guitar picks jar was correctly guessed as 363 guitar picks by Lucy Mitton.



Since starting in Newpark, the choir has been small but mighty. We've had some wonderfully committed members over the years who have kept it going, and we really saw the benefit of that effort this year when our choir grew immensely. We had the chance to showcase our talent for the whole school community at the carol service, and this talent is also showcased weekly in G6 on a Friday. We've worked through songs like *Here Comes the Sun* and *Kiss Me*, and we all look forward to broadening our horizons even further next year!

A special thanks to Sigrid Groarke for being without a doubt the most committed and enthusiastic choir member that we've ever had. This is what she had to say about her time in Newpark Voices:

"My time here at Newpark has been wonderful. A large part of why it has been wonderful have been my extracurriculars, especially Choir/Newpark voices. When I had just started to attend choir, the patience, care and understanding showcased by both members and staff alike who attended was heartwarming, and I can confidently confirm that these tremendously positive traits have never left our group, no matter how much it has grown in size over the years. Any new members joining, be it their first time, or 50th time in a choir, we will accept with open arms, no questions asked. At the end of the day, we are a group of tight-knit students coming together and bonding over our shared interest of singing as a group, sometimes in harmony and sometimes in unison, bringing out the best in our members, both in terms of singing and personality. To tell you the truth, I'm devastated to be leaving Choir behind, but I have every faith in my TYs, Romy, Eva and Chloe, (who will be in 5th year next year!), that they will do an amazing job as the new joint leaders of choir. With a heavy heart, I pass the baton over to them, but I just know in my heart of hearts, that they'll do perfectly."

We hope to welcome new faces next year, through a combination of incoming first years and singers from other year groups who would like to give it a go. Absolutely no musical experience is necessary, just enthusiasm and a tolerance for my weekly forgetfulness when it comes to printing lyrics.

By Ms Jill Scott and Sigrid Groarke, 6th Year

The Spice of Life: The Newpark Variety Show



On Thursday the 16th of April, Newpark held our annual Variety Show at the Hunter Theatre. The show was just one part of the excellent Music Week, and the theatre was quickly filled with students, friends and family excited to witness the evening's musical delights. The show was emceed by fifth year duo Tuathla and Tom, who kept the audience laughing amid some classic Newpark technical difficulties...

First up was the third year band Shards of Salt, who played a rocking cover of *Go With The Flow* by Queens of the Stone Age. Next was Eoin, who rapped/sang a crowd-hyping rendition of *Clint Eastwood* by Gorillaz. After that came Lily and Allegra, who sang a beautifully harmonised *Don't Think Twice It's Alright* by Joan Baez. The following performance was Ben on the viola, who played *Concerto in G* by Telemann (and made us all feel very sophisticated for listening to some classical music). Next up was Éabha singing a powerful and emotional cover of *Mask* from The Amazing Digital Circus. Then came Maebh, who played us some very complex and melodic classical guitar. Finally, the fourth year band Silver Spoon performed an impressive original titled *Rainfall* which would give the Smashing Pumpkins a run for their money.

(Then it was the intermission)

Harry opened the second half, serenading us with his

original song *Is This Love*. After that was Sigrid, who brought the house down with her dynamic rendition of *Sakta Vi gå Genom Stan* (I hope I spelt that right). In a true sibling affair, the next act was Tora and Mirabel, who played a very very very very touching cover of *Anything* by Adrienne Lenker. No, I didn't cry, why would you even suggest that...

Then came Oisín, who sang his very cool original song *Fly Coated Bread*, which I would genuinely listen to on Spotify. Just as I had begun to dry my eyes, Harriet sang a rather beautiful yet gut punching cover of *Nobody* by Mitski, followed immediately by Finn who skillfully performed *Mia and Sebastian's Theme from La La Land*. By that point I was feeling rather welled up.





The penultimate act of the night was the talented fifth year band Harry and the Dockrells, who played a super cool cover of *Fade Into You* by Mazzy Star. The final act of the show was a happy song... JUST KIDDING! It was Lily, Ella and Allegra's stunning but rather lethal rendition of *Not A Lot Just Forever* by Adrienne Lenker. Someone call me an ambulance.

Overall, the Variety Show was a roaring success! Well done to all the talent and muchos gracias to Joss, Ms Fox, Ms Scott, Ms Johnston, Allegra, Alice, and everyone else who helped out bringing the show to life.

By Florence Chipperfield, 5th Year



The Fresh Film Festival



On a sunny morning in March, I and a group of other fifth years ventured out to Rathmines Omniplex to attend the Fresh Film Festival, a.k.a “Ireland’s Young Filmmaker of the Year Regional Screenings Dublin.” The day was an

absolute treat as we got to marvel at the films of Dublin’s most talented young filmmakers.

The purpose of our journey was to watch the screening of “our” film, *The Disturbing Case of the Duck in the Day Time* (I say “our” because while James, William, Ethan, Aashi and Isolde in 5th year had all produced the film, I did not actually contribute anything to it and was just at the screening for fun). For any curious birds, *TDCOTDITDT* is a sort of psychological horror/found media/duck costume meets Rockfield Park film that follows a brave duck who is trying to protect his lake from the scourge of humans, and in the process loses touch with reality.

Highlights of the film festival included a heartwarming commentary on commemorative bench plaques; an avant-garde black and white film from Lithuania; a comedy about two guys from 1825 who accidentally time travel to present-day Lucan; and a heartbreaking film set in Howth about a young homeless fisherman.

There were also some more... interesting... offerings, such as a frankly near-nonsensical AI animation and an entire Indonesian children’s TV episode (?? There is frankly no way that was made by teenagers, but I did learn some Indonesian)

All in all, the day gave us some great food for thought, both on the intricacies of storytelling through visual media and the reasons why you should never use ChatGPT to animate your movie.

The Disturbing Case of the Duck in the Day Time (starring William Kehoe, Ethan Cannon Gonzalez, and James Carter) is in cinemas now.

By Florence Chipperfield, 5th Year

Murder Mystery!



On the 4th of March an Irish author, Alison Weatherby, came to run a creative writing workshop to celebrate Book Week. The workshop on writing murder mysteries attracted people from all years which made it fun and interesting.

Alison writes young adult murder mystery books. Her best known book is *The Secrets Act*, which is set during World War II at Bletchley Park. She writes all of her books from her home in Dublin. She wants to inspire students by offering school visits and workshops on creating engaging mysteries. She has won the Redhill Academy Trust Book Award and the Young Quills Award.

The workshop started with Alison introducing herself and asking us what our favourite types of books were. The most common answer was murder mystery, which fitted well with what she writes.

We then completed a worksheet designed to help us start building our own story by thinking about the victim, how they died, who the killer was and where it took place. There were some really creative and interesting answers when Alison asked people to share their ideas. At the end of the workshop, Alison spoke about her new book *The Secrets Acts*.

By Cate Steele, 3rd Year

MOLI: The Write Stuff

This April I brought my lovely first year form group who also happen to be my English class to The Museum of Literature of Ireland (Moli). We had a wonderful picnic in St Stephen’s Green and then went to our workshop.

Everyone was thoroughly engaged and the creative writing workshop was delivered by a wonderful past pupil of ours, Lily Cahill. The students were then given a tour of the amazing museum.



I highly recommend visiting this unique museum. It has many beautiful things including a copy of the first edition of *Ulysses*. It's a very worthy testament to Irish literature. My form group were immaculately behaved and a pleasure to bring out on a trip.

By Ms Cathy Devis

Yes, That's a Lot of Acronyms



On March 5th, 2026, Newpark students from the newly-introduced Drama Film and Theatre Studies (DFATS for short)

class attended a screening of Glenn Leyburn and Lisa Barros D'Sa's "Saipan", as part of the Careers in Screen workshop held by the IFI (Irish Film Institute – is that enough acronyms for you?).

After watching the film, the audience, who consisted of a mixture of individuals and students from other schools, were invited to ask questions to a small panel of filmmakers, all of which operated in different departments on the film we had just watched. From producers and casting directors who had been on the project for years before they stepped onto set, to editors and composers who worked long after the final shoot day, we were able to hear the stories of those who make the movies happen. I specifically loved getting the chance to hear from the cinematographer, and listening to what he considered was important while combing through the archival footage that was available to be put in the film's montage sequences.

After the film, there were a series of workshops available, almost all of which were attended by our students. Personally, I attended a workshop on directing documentary films, where Aoife Kelleher spoke about her experience directing in documentary in the modern world, the future of directing in both fiction and non-fiction stories, and the ethics of directing documentary. Additionally, I attended a talk from a man who worked in the art department on the TV show 'Wednesday', who spoke about the pre-production

process of a film when trying to coordinate the art department, and his experience working his way up the corporate film ladder. Both talks were super interesting and offered two unique perspectives on the film industry that show the contrasting ways people break into the industry.

Finally, there were two workshops on Screenwriting and Cinematography, the former I attended. There, we broke down the key elements of a story, plot structure, the importance of conflict, writing exercises for upcoming writers, and analysed the effectiveness of the screenwriting in the short French film, "J'Attendrai Le Suivant...". I'd highly recommend a watch if you are looking for a short film that perfects screenwriting and dialogue to hook audiences and get them attached to a character.

Overall, I found the day to be an eye-opening one for people who are trying to break into and explore the different roles of the film industry. Getting to speak to so many like-minded individuals both in fellow young-filmmakers and experienced professionals really motivated me to keep working in and expanding my knowledge with the industry. Would highly recommend it to any young filmmakers within the school, if the IFI decides to run it again next year.

By James Carter, 5th Year

Podcasters At Work



This year a group of Transition Year students have been working on making two podcasts. One is about TY and the other is about the Junior Plays.

This served as a great opportunity to use all the fancy new equipment like the microphones, headsets and control board. We spent about an

hour after school one day learning how all the equipment worked. We ran into a few issues but with a bit of tweaking we got everything working well.

We recorded the junior plays warm ups, audience member interviews and we will be interviewing directors as well as cast members. Regarding the TY podcast, we plan to interview teachers. We have already interviewed some students about their experience in TY. Who knows maybe this will be used to introduce TY for years to come???

By Dalina Tzvetanova, TY

Stratford Diaries



Day 1

'Twas a cold Wednesday night at Newpark where many students and four teachers gathered to commence the ceremonial trip to Stratford-upon-Avon. We packed onto the bus like a tin of sardines. Casper Ryan quickly realised he had forgotten his phone.

This was a great tragedy, but we did not let it dampen our moods as we quickly boarded the ferry and set up shop. After many members of the gang spent way too much money on claw machines, we began to filter off the boat into the land of Great Britain. Next stop was sunny, sunny Chester. On the bus over, aux was given to the dynamic duo of James Craig and Tommaso Pelizzeni, which meant banger after banger got played.

Arriving in Chester, the weather was 23 degrees and sunny. We spent some time seeing the sights, but then we were back on the bus for Stratford. We swiftly commenced our walking tour to learn about the history and soul of this quaint town. The gang then checked into the hostel and got much-needed sleep because the next days were going to be like a movie.

Day 2

Waking up early, we began a day full to the brim with action. Some clinically insane people got up extra early for a tour of the RSC, but that doesn't matter because luckily I wasn't one of those people. So, the average person's day started with a tour of Shakespeare's birthplace, which is a place that is incredibly well preserved, containing the wonder of the time. Outside, there was a performance from a scene of one of Shakespeare's plays done in a modern and interactive way. For example, they used actors from the crowd, so some of the 5th years were made look like absolute muppets on stage.

We then got a tour of Shakespeare's last house where he died, but this had been torn down, so instead there was a garden with lots of Shakespeare sculptures. After that, we got free rein of the whole of Stratford. The world was our oyster for those lunchtime hours.

Next was our afternoon activity, which involved either

a river cruise, a costume tour of the RSC, or the butterfly farm. But I will delay no longer because next was probably the most memorable part of the trip for everybody. We got to see the play *Henry the Fifth* and no, this was not the memorable bit (even though it was very good). The memorable bit came after, when Cathy Devis gave us permission to stay behind at the actors' exit and wait. Who were we waiting for? None other than THE ALFRED ENOCH. Many people got high fives and signatures, some even going for handshakes, but Oscar McGowan used me as a battering ram through the crowd so we could get a photo, which we did. This was a true honour for us, and I hope it was an honour for Alfred as well to meet Newpark (especially Mr Colgrave).

Day 3

Next stop for the Park was Alton Towers, where we got to experience it in its full glory. We were able to conquer the Smiler and other white-knuckle rollercoasters, as well as win prizes in the funfair games (well, at least I did; others weren't so lucky). We boarded the bus again after a long day of wonder and made our way back to Chester. Here we ate like kings in Bella Italia and then tried our luck at bowling. I came last in my lane because I was the only one who had dignity and didn't use the bumpers.

Then we began our journey back, but we didn't do it quietly because the speaker was blaring and the 4th years were dancing, lighting up the British roads with a little bit of Newpark. We then ran out of energy on the boat and tried to sleep our way back to Ireland.

And that's all — a trip of laughs, cries, and straight-up joy. I will always cherish these memories, and I cannot thank enough Ms Devis, Sean the bus driver, and all the other teachers who made this possible.

By James Craig, TY

We Just Can't Get Enough

At 5am on a Wednesday during the Easter holidays, 46 students, four teachers, and one bus driver departed for Stratford-upon-Avon. This year both Transition Years and Fifth Years were on this trip.

On the second day, me and the other lucky few who signed up for an early backstage tour at the Royal Shakespeare Company got to wake up bright and early at seven, while the rest of the group got an extra hour and a half of sleep. The backstage tour was definitely one of my highlights of the trip. We got to go all around the theatre, including behind the set, look at



(and definitely not touch any, wink wink) props that were going to be used in that evening's performance of *Henry V*. We got to learn about all the different parts of a play, not just the actors, and how they would affect the show later, including the sets, the lighting, the stage managing, and the costumes.

Later, after a tour of Shakespeare's birthplace we sat down in a circular area where two actors were performing some Shakespeare. After a scene from *The Merchant of Venice*, and some of our wonderful group got to perform with them in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as "Wall", "Lion", and "Moonshine".

Next we explored the gardens at New Place, the house Shakespeare bought for his family after he got some of his playwriting money. In the afternoon I did the RSC costume tour, which I found extremely interesting as we got to see how the costumes are made and past costumes worn by some very famous actors.

After dinner, we headed to the beautiful Royal Shakespeare Theatre for what had been one of the most anticipated parts of the trip: *Henry V*, starring Alfred Enoch (from *Harry Potter*).

I really enjoyed this show. The play may not be Shakespeare's best, but with the performances, set pieces, sounds, and lights, it was difficult not to enjoy. This version had some strong anti-war themes, which were probably not how Shakespeare originally wrote the play. The stage was completely covered in blood from the start, and the battle sequences didn't have two distinct sides — it was just people fighting, and most of the time people fighting air. These choices, however, make the character of Henry very unlikeable by the end. Every actor except Alfred played a soldier in battle, and there were also an extra 20 background actors, which made the stage feel packed and chaotic during the battle sequences.



It was truly a treat to watch such a well-made piece of theatre, and I think everyone enjoyed it. After the play, Ms Devis relented and let us go to stage door. We got many an autograph, and I was especially pleased to get one from the actress playing Katherine, but when Alfred came out the crowd went a little wild. We probably scared him, but we did get a group picture with all of us, so it was worth it, even if he probably had to ice his hand after all that signing.

The third day was the most daunting day, as we were up at seven and weren't set to get home until 6am the next day. Magically, we all made it onto the bus with little to no hullabaloo and headed on the way to Alton Towers. Alton Towers certainly was a ride — we were there for a whopping seven hours and I still didn't get to ride the Gangsta Granny ride. From the Smiler boasting 14 loop-de-loops, to the In the Night Garden boat ride, to arcade games, there really is something for everyone at Alton Towers. When we got back on the bus we were wrecked, and that was the quietest bus journey of the trip, I think.

We paused for a lovely Italian meal before an epic bowling showdown. The penultimate bus journey took us to Holyhead port at midnight to a frighteningly large amount of waves in the harbour and an even more frightening amount of Makka Pakka jokes. After the most delirious half hour of my life, we somehow made it onto the ferry. The ferry back was rough, in every sense of the word. But eventually we saw the shining lights of Dublin Port, and next thing I knew we were back at Newpark and then I was in my bed.

Stratford was truly amazing. I have to thank all my fellow students for being so awesome, Ms Devis and all the other teachers for giving up their time (and some of their sanity) to mind us, the bus driver Sean, and of course the man himself, Shakespeare, without whom none of this would have been possible.

The Short Plays



Lights! Camera! Action! The Short Plays of '26 were a blazing success, with a memorable eleven plays written by imaginative individuals and performed by people of all ages, from first year to sixth year, even starring the returns of two past Newpark pupils. They featured everything from a crazy talk show to a yeti to a boring man named Ted.

Let's not forget those who put it all together: the stage and lighting crew, and of course the mastermind behind it all, Ms Devis. The night of wonders and laughs was filled to the brim with audience members - parents, relatives, and even teachers. Tickets quickly sold out, unfortunate for those who didn't make it in time.



It was a fantastic evening, not only on the stage but also behind the scenes, featuring a huge warm-up including every actor and director involved in the whole thing. The night lasted for several hours of enjoyment and happiness, but it was also the culmination of an amazing week and a half for the actors, some of whom were performing for the first time.

The Short Plays of '26 went out with a bang, and we



can only hope that those of the future will be just as amazing.

By Django Barry Murphy, 1st Year



The Junior Plays

“The Junior Plays.” These three simple words could mean nothing to you, but for the drama community, the Junior Plays 2026 were a huge success; seven original and creative plays written by our wonderful 5th years, performed by 1st and 2nd Years, crewed by 3rd Years and lit by Transition Years. Congratulations to all involved.



The Director's Chair

‘Twas nearly a year ago now, when the seeds of this year’s Junior Plays began to germinate in the minds of us 5th years. Ever since our first performances in the Junior Plays four years ago, we had all been itching at the faraway prospect of directing our own.

But at last, the time was upon us, and so I teamed up with my long-time partner in crime Oisín Twohig (who would’ve guessed?!) and we set out to write the most thrilling, most high octane, most perplexing Junior Play ever conceived.

Along with our comrade Ethan Cannon Gonzalez, we conjured a tale which we dubbed “Project Nightshade”, a haunting title if ever there was one. It was a nonsensical story, filled with billionaires, chefs, magicians, oil and flowers that squirt water.

It wasn’t until the auditions though, that we truly realised how magical these plays were going to be. All our cast members were energetic and incredibly





talented from the start, and it didn't take long for rehearsals to become the highlight of our week.

As the weeks went by, and the anticipation for the shows grew larger, everyone threw all of their talent and effort into rehearsals, with some hilarious and memorable moments from gorging ourselves on delicacies from the nearby Spar to the now infamous Siege of the Hunter Theatre.

When the nights of the plays arrived, the excitement was overwhelming in the GPA. While there were of



course some nerves, both nights were absolutely fantastic. Whether I was backstage or laughing along in the audience, it was still incredible.

I have always felt the Junior Plays represent the best of Newpark, and this year was no different. Every play had its own distinct style and energy, and everyone involved whether as actors, directors, lights, stage crew, did a brilliant job at creating such a fun and memorable set of plays. Of course, a special thank you must be made to Ms Devis and all of the teachers who



ensured rehearsals and the shows went smoothly.

This has been one of the most enjoyable and rewarding experiences I have had in Newpark, and seeing our little play grow and come to life was a joy to behold. To all First and Second Years: keep doing Newpark Drama! I promise that you will not regret it.

And so, as the door closes on another year of Junior Plays, I can safely say that the Junior Plays 2026 were, in every possible sense, a "Nightshade Delightshade".

By Ben Carroll, director, 5th Year

Behind the scenes

We had so many people who wanted to help with stage crew this year for the Junior Plays. At the first production meeting Robyn and I got to share the main job as stage managers. All of the crew worked really hard to make sure everything was right for the plays and that we knew where everything was—we only had a week and a half to get everything sorted.

My time as stage manager was as rewarding as it was stressful. The fact that the misplacement of any piece of equipment could affect the whole play



was quite panic-inducing. Despite this, I enjoyed every second of it. Being able to help the directors and the actors was an incredibly fun and important experience for me. The evenings felt very special and memorable. I am endlessly grateful to all the stage crew who took part and put up with Cate and I panicking throughout the two weeks.

Cate Steele & Robyn Yelverton, Stage Managers, 3rd Year

Doing sound for the Junior Plays was stressful, but so worth it! Sitting in a little booth backstage, armed only with a laptop, an amplifier, and scripts, me and the other sound guy fought to give these plays the beauty of sound. It felt so magical to bring the plays together in such a unique way, and to see the actors dancing around to our music. I would fully recommend this experience!

By Annabelle Vaughan, 3rd Year

The Actors

Acting in the Junior Plays was a really fun experience. Over the months working on the play I made so many new friends and got to try out so many new things. After the auditions and casting, we got to meet our directors, and the other actors in our play. Over time everyone became great friends, as we were all



together rehearsing most days after school. While we spent most of our time rehearsing and perfecting our play, there was also a lot of games and fun (including playing joint Mafia—always very entertaining and competitive, in a friendly way of course!)

I enjoyed experiencing how a show is put together. The tech. run and the dress rehearsal were different from any other kind of run-through I had done. It was also great to have a chance to see the other plays after the amount of time and effort everyone had put in.

Our directors all wrote amazing plays and were so helpful running the whole show. I can hardly imagine



how much work went into it! And speaking of work, Ms Devis was the one who kept everything going smoothly. If she hadn't been there, without a doubt there would have been no show.

I really enjoyed making friends with so many people from other years: now whenever I pass them in the corridor, I still give them a smile. I will absolutely take part again next year.



By Juno Packham, actor, 1st Year

The Junior Plays 2026 were great fun. Me and all my fellow cast members had a wonderful time and grew as people and as actors. Our directors served as a constant source of inspiration and encouragement to us, helping us through make our plays the best they could be.

The rehearsals were great experiences and the performance nights were amazing with fun activities and a lovely atmosphere. It was great to get to hear about the troubles and problems of the other plays!

Every single person that was involved one way or another deserve all the praise I can give. This was some of the most fun I've ever had. Thank you to my director and my cast: your work was amazing and I hope you all of you had as much fun as I did.

By Thomas Hughes, actor, 2nd Year



The PTA Update

It's hard to believe another school year is drawing to a close. It has been a busy but very rewarding term for the PTA.

In March, we hosted an engaging and insightful talk by Dr Colman Noctor, *Parenting Support in Challenging Times*. His practical, down-to-earth approach to mental health resonated strongly with attendees. Following the talk, the PTA was delighted to provide refreshments, giving parents and guardians an opportunity to reflect on and discuss the session together.

Our First Year parents and guardians' social evening took place on the 18th of April and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We recognise that the transition from primary to secondary school can feel isolating at times, so it was wonderful to bring people together in a relaxed and welcoming setting.

Throughout the year, the PTA lost property team has worked diligently to return items to their owners. The second-hand lost property sale will take place on 27 May from 2-4pm. This is always a great opportunity for students in 1st to 3rd year to purchase high-quality uniforms at reduced prices, and it will be our final fundraising event of the year.

We have made strong progress this year in raising funds for the new school minibus, and this work will continue into next year. In addition to the above, the PTA has also supported a range of initiatives this term, including funding the insurance and maintenance costs for the minibus, providing locks for lockers, first aid supplies for the Nurses, support for students attending Walton Club, and supporting the End-of-Year Prize-Giving.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the parents of our 6th Year students who have been dedicated PTA members over many years and are now moving on alongside their children. Suki, Debbie D, Richard, Debbie, Ailish and Cara - your contributions

have been invaluable, and you will be greatly missed. Between the PTA members leaving the school this year and next year, there are lots of vacancies coming up on the PTA and we are actively looking for new members to step up. If you are interested in getting involved, please feel free to contact us at pta@newparkschool.ie. It's a great way to meet other parents/ guardians and is a most rewarding experience.

Finally, thank you to all parents and guardians for your continued support and participation throughout the year - it is very much appreciated.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer ahead.

The Newpark PTA committee

Who's That Mug?

1st year Art students made their own mugs using clay and pottery glaze. The mugs were inspired by Toby Jugs which are ceramic mugs with the face of a recognisable person on the front. These mugs are now perfect for hot chocolate or a very distinctive pen holder.



Newpark Newsletter Issue 69

Editors: Lesley Ring and Anna Johnston

Newsletter Team: Lesley Ring, Anna Johnston, Henry Simpson, James Carter, Florence Chipperfield, Ethan Canon Gonzalez, Kaia Berzins-Fleming, Cate Steele, Josh Crammond, Danny Smith, Sofia Kiriya, Emma Siliauskas, Naima Clarke, Maeve Doyle and Sophie Cullen-Rolfe

Photographers: Henry Simpson, Ethan Canon Gonzalez, Fionn McNally and Kaia Berzins-Fleming

Cover Artwork: by Bláthnat Quinn

With thanks to all our other contributors