

# ST MARY'S KNOCKBEG COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



SPRING ISSUE 2024

MONDAY 4TH MARCH 2024

## Principal's message

Welcome to the latest version of the Knockbeg newsletter. It is full of information and images of all the wonderful things taking place in our school this year including tours, trips, matches and a lot of other activities that our students have participated in.



It is a very important time for many of our students as the Junior Cert cohort are completing CBA's and preparing for their exams in June, Transition Year students are choosing the subjects to study for Leaving Certificate and our Leaving 11 cohort are completing projects and preparing for oral examinations which form the initial segment of their final journey through Knockbeg College. We wish all of our students the gift of wisdom in the choices they make and the exam students the understanding and knowledge to achieve success in the weeks ahead.



### DATES FOR THE DIARY >>>

Our school's  
Annual Tractor  
Run takes on  
Friday March 15th

Our annual Parents  
Day celebration  
will take place on  
Thursday May 16th

Our Leaving 2  
graduation mass will  
take place on  
Wednesday May 22nd



# Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024

1ú - 17ú lá de Mhárta 2024

To celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge, there will be a series of Irish language events as follows:

Ocáidí!

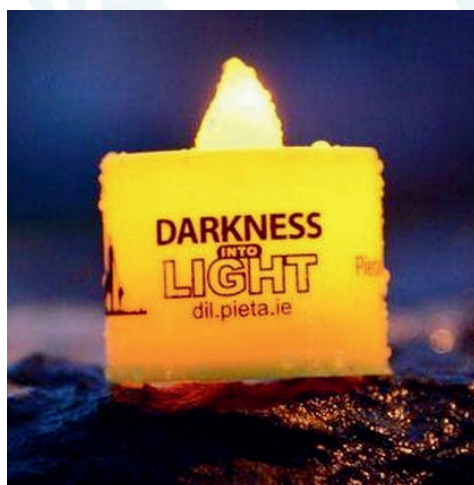
- Céilí do Bliain 1 ar an 11ú lá de Mhárta ag P7 13:50
- Comórtas Scannánaíochta L1 - Scoraíocht ghearr ar cheann de na Sraiths! 'Na hOscars'
- Dúshlán trasnáin, Puc Fada + Cic Fada
- Tráth na gCeist - Bliain 1 - 3 in Eire Óg ar an 7ú lá de Mhárta



## Knockbeg Darkness into Light 2024

Knockbeg College will be hosting a Darkness into Light walk on Saturday May 11th at 4.15am.

We encourage all staff, students, families and the wider Knockbeg community to come along and join the walk, raising funds and awareness for Pieta House. The Darkness into Light event contributes to enabling Pieta House to provide vital services to people impacted by suicide and self-harm, while also raising awareness and promoting a positive and encouraging community for Knockbeg. The 5K walk will end with a blessing and refreshments. More details on how to register will follow.





# Past pupils' career day!



Huge thanks to our many past pupils who attended our Transition Year careers event. The time given to our students and the expertise shared with them was invaluable. It was great to see so many willing to give something back to the Knockbeg community.



## Senior footballers raise money for charity



Very well done to our Senior Footballers who raised over €12,000 in aid of Breast Cancer Research Institute, after dying their hair blonde over the Christmas season.



# Transition year trip to Barcelona

TUESDAY 6TH FEBRUARY TO FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

Sixty-five of our transition year students accompanied by six teachers went to Barcelona recently for four days.

Over the duration of the trip students and teachers were busy partaking in activities such as zip-lining, bubble soccer, CSI treasure hunt and tours of Barcelona city centre along with time at the beach in Cambrils and Salou, finishing up with a day spent in Puerto Ventura theme park.

A fantastic time was had by all!





# Drumming workshops

Our First Year and TY students took part in drumming workshops recently, during which they had the opportunity to play various percussion instruments in a fun environment. Many thanks to Conor from "Sound Out Rhythm" for facilitating the workshop



# Chess workshops

In recent weeks our TY students participated in chess workshops and tournaments. Congratulations to tournament winners Aaron Doyle, Colum Kennedy and Greg Murphy.



# Future leaders

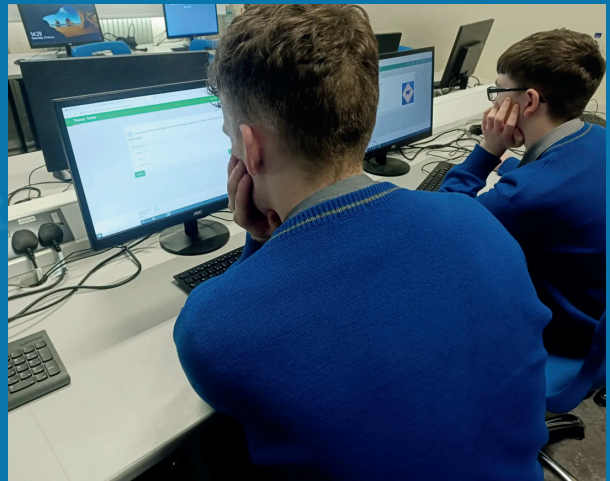
Our TY Future leader coaches are working towards achieving the GAA foundation coaching course. Thanks to Laois GAA Coaching and Games for facilitating the students who are taking this course





# Drivers education

The Irish School of Excellence put our TY students through their paces with driving lessons, car maintenance, interactive games, theory test preparation and scooters around the campus





# Senior Cycle Art Trip

The photos below feature our Senior Cycle art students who attended the amazing Andy Warhol exhibition at The Hugh Lane Art Gallery in Dublin. They enjoyed a most informative and interactive guided tour of the artworks as part of their visual art studies.





# Catholic Schools Week

To mark Catholic Schools Week, our TY students attended mass in Graiguecullen church which was celebrated by Bishop Nulty and Fr. Dunphy



In addition our Second Year students attended a special prayer service led by Fr. Dunphy to mark this special week.





## Green Schools committee and Environmental Education

This year, our Green-Schools committee is working towards our third flag which is themed “Travel”!

The committee has hugely expanded with over 45 members actively participating in meetings, actions, and planning. While there is a focus on the “Travel” theme, the committee is continuing to raise awareness around sustainability, climate action and biodiversity issues.

To date, members of the Green Schools committee have surveyed every student in Knockbeg College to assess their mode of transport to and from school. Following on from this, they will run information and education campaigns around carpooling, idling and public transport before re-surveying at the end of this and next year. A drone survey to identify traffic issues at drop off and pickup times has also provided valuable information for the committee.

Education around Climate Change and Sustainability has also gone school-wide with competitions, awareness campaigns and the TY Education For Sustainability Module. This rotating module not only educates TY’s on important environmental issues, but also gives them life skills such as sewing and critical thinking.



There was a fantastic turnout for the first Green Schools committee meeting of 2024.



## Green Schools Committee and Environmental Education

Our first years have also come on board and produced some amazing posters for the Climate Action Poster Competition.

Big congratulations to winners Mikey Murnane, Jimmy Doyle, Rhys Hennessy, Liam Lanigan, Ruairi Delaney and Allen Bowe. Special mention to Liam who won first prize!



The photograph below features our group of TY's sewing to increase awareness of the problems of fast fashion.





# Extracurriculars

## First Year footballers

Well done to our First Year footballers who recently won the Laois schools first year blitz.

Following on from this win the lads kicked off the Leinster Brother Hubert Cup competition with two tight encounters against St Peters college and Good Counsel unfortunately our players came up short in both games by small margins.



## Second year footballers

Hard luck to our Second Year footballers who were defeated in the Leinster A Schools Final by Colaiste Mhuire Mullingar after extra time on a scoreline of 3.9 to 4.8.





# Extracurriculars

## Junior footballers

Hard luck to our junior footballers who were defeated in the South Leinster A schools final by Naas CBS on a scoreline of 2:14 to 1:8.



## Senior footballers

Commiserations to our senior footballers who were knocked out by eventual Leinster winners Naas CBS in the Br Bosco cup.

Many of these players represented the school with great distinction over the last six years. They are still in contention for League and the Carlow schools competition.





# Extracurriculars

## First Year basketball

Our First Year basketball team started their campaign with a late one point victory over Pipers Hill Naas. They pulled it out the fire again with an excellent one point victory over Patricians College Newbridge thanks to three three pointers scored in the fourth quarter by Sean Bowe. The lads were victorious again against Colaiste Iosagain in the midlands semi-final and will play Portlaoise in the Midlands A final.



## Second Year basketball

Our Second Year basketball team started off with two impressive victories over Pipers Hill Naas and Ard Scoil na Mara, Waterford. They faced a very physical Newbridge Patricians and came up short away from home. Following their two wins in the group stages they were defeated by St Mel's of Longford in the Midland A Semi final.





# Extracurriculars

## Badminton

Our U19 badminton team kicked off their campaign early in the New Year with a blitz in Tyndall College. A week later they travelled to Baldoyle, Dublin where they competed in the Leinster Finals.

They got off to a great start winning their first round, but unfortunately lost out to tough opposition in the second round.

Well done to Brian Cox, Febin Manoj, James Hovenden and Greg Murphy.

Well done to Ross Murphy, Tadhg Deane, Charlie McHugh and Nisun Balogun who were part of our U14 badminton team that won a blitz last week.



## First and second year Hurling

Our young hurlers started their campaign with the Laois hurling blitz during which they put in a number of impressive performances, winning all their matches.

Having been beaten by Gaelcholáiste Carlow and Presentation College in two tight encounters in the group stages the lads bounced back with an impressive win over New Ross CBS. They now await to see who they face in a place in a South Leinster semi final.



# Extracurriculars

## Athletics

Well done to our cross country teams who competed in the South Leinster XCcountry in Carlow hurling club in January.

Our intermediate athletes came 2nd in the teams competition and qualified for the Leinsters which took place in the Phoenix Park, where they finished 5th. Mackenzie McIvor qualified individually for the Leinster where he finished 33rd.

Track and Field competitions will start in early in March 2024.

