



# Coláiste Pobail Acla

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

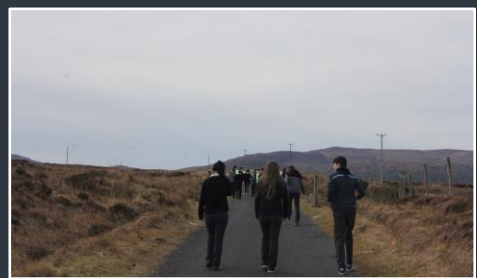
MAY 2018



*Téann an saol thart mar  
bheadh eiteoga air  
Life goes by as if it had  
wings*



## Principal's Message



The summer has arrived marking the end of another school year. I would like to acknowledge the great work done by everyone and to wish our students who are sitting their examinations the very best of luck.

I would like to compliment all of our students who represented our school on the various teams and projects and our staff who organised all the extra-curricular activities. It has been a very successful year for all involved. I would also like to thank the Parents Volunteer Group who have accompanied our students on trips throughout the year.

Our 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Year boys Gaelic Football team deserve a lot of credit for reaching four finals coming away with the trophies on two occasions. Our Coiste Gaelige have made a fantastic effort with the promotion of Gaelige in the school culminating in our school being the first Post Primary school in Mayo to achieve the GaelBhratach. Our Green Schools Committee have put in immense work around the school this year. I would like to thank all the local businesses who gave our students Work Experience opportunities throughout the year. I would like to wish our Leaving Certificate students the very best in their exams and for the future. I hope you all have an enjoyable and relaxing summer break.

Le meas,  
Paul Fahy

## Key Dates

- Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June** – School year ends
- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June** – State Exams Commence
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August** – Leaving Cert Results
- Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> August** – 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Years return
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** – Transition Years Return
- Mid September** – Junior Cert Results
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October** – School closes for October Midterm Break
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December** – School finishes for Christmas holidays
- Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January** – School re-opens
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February** – School closes for Spring Midterm Break
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March** – School Closed (Bank holiday)
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April** – School finishes for Easter holidays
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April** – School closed for Easter holidays
- Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May** – School Closed (Bank holiday)
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May** – School closes for Summer holidays

## Transition Year Students visit Poland



On the first day of our tour we got a bus into the centre of Krakow. We met our tour guide Marta before embarking on an intriguing walking tour of the old city. Next, we walked on into the main square past St. Mary's Basilica which has an area of 40,000 square meters. This square dates back to the thirteenth century and is one of the largest medieval squares in Europe. The afternoon saw us travel to Park Wodny water park, followed by ice cream, dinner at our hotel and bowling that evening.

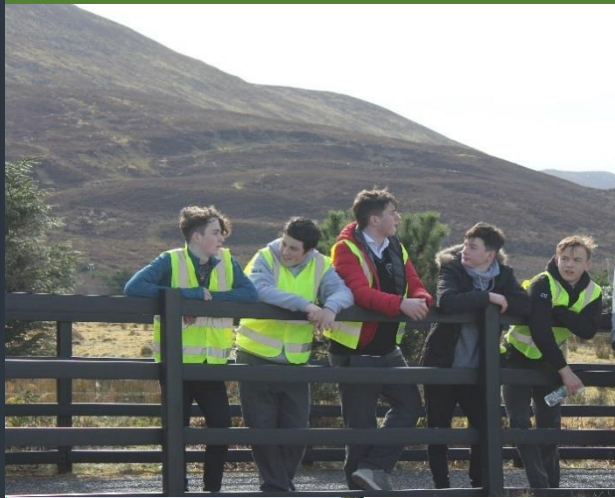
Day two was memorable for quite different reasons. The day began with shopping in the city centre. Our tour bus then collected us for the one-and-a-half-hour drive to the small town of Oswiecim, better known by its German name, Auschwitz. Our guided tour was both insightful and horrifying in equal measure.

On the last day of our trip we started the day off with a guided tour of the Jewish ghettos. We went to The Empty Chairs Memorial, which consists of 68 bronze chairs placed around the heroes square to symbolize the 68 thousand Jews who were executed when the ghettos were liquidated.

We then walked to the top of the Jozef Pilsudski mound, the highest peak in Krakow. This is a man-made mound that is over 36 meters high and was made in honour of Poland's inter-war hero and leader Józef Pilsudski.

Our final visit was to the Wieliczka Salt Mines. The mine has been producing table salt since the 13th century until 2007. In the mines we went 135 meters underground. Along the route we saw sculptures carved out of rock salt and even a chandelier. This was our last stop before heading to the airport.

The tour was a fascinating experience overall and one each of the students fully embraced and enjoyed.



## Wellbeing Week

March 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> 2018

Coláiste Pobail Acla held a very successful Wellbeing week in March. It was a very successful week enjoyed by all. It gave us the opportunity to take time out and reflect on the importance of all aspects of wellbeing in our everyday lives.

Our Wellbeing Week included a series of activities such as; mindfulness meditation, exercise classes, a breakfast morning and a whole school walk on the Great Western Greenway to finish off the week.

A very important aspect of our wellbeing is “giving back” to others. On Tuesday students took part in a ‘Clean Coasts’ initiative and accompanied by teachers we took time out to help clean up our local beaches. On Wednesday students took part in the Trocaire sign up sign out challenge and raised a very impressive €850.

A number of talks and workshops also took place throughout the week including mindspace, Enhance your life by Alan Williams and Gillian Conway from the Drugs and Alcohol Task Force.

The week was organised by Ms. Shannon, Ms. Connolly and the Wellbeing Committee.



## GreenSchools

The Green Schools Committee has been working in collaboration with staff and students throughout the year with the aim of reducing the amount of waste produced in our school. We have introduced new recycling and compost bins around the school and in classrooms. The quantity of waste produced has been reduced. Our next aim is to eliminate the 1000+ plastic bottles that come into and leave our school each week.

## School Website



Our new school website was launched in February this year. You will find lots of useful information about whats happening in our school. Visit [www.colaiSTEPobailacla.ie](http://www.colaiSTEPobailacla.ie) to have a look for yourself.

## Gaelbhrtach

Comhghairdeas dár scoláirí a bhain an Gaelbhrtach amach. Scéim í Gaelbhrtach a chuireann ar chumas scoileanna gradam aitheantais a fháil as a gcuid oibre chun an Ghaeilge chumarsáideach a chur chun cinn.

Le linn na bliana eagraíodh go leor imeachtaí as Gaeilge, Drámaí le hOíche Chlúitíir, Biongó, Ceolcheoirim Seo Linn, Ciorcal Comhrá, Tráth na gCeist, Tórafocht Taisce agus go leor imeachtaí eile. “Is fearr Gaeilge Briste ná Béarla cliste”





## Coláiste Pobail Acla on Ice

Students of Coláiste Pobail Acla Ice Skating in Castlebar in December

### Development Education in Coláiste Pobail Acla

Congratulations to the third year group who attained the first **Global Passport Award** for our school. They took part in numerous initiatives including workshops on Sustainable Development Goals. They presented their ideas at a Brighter Communities Worldwide event in Ennis in March. We continue to work with our partner school in Kenya and are hoping to enter a joint project in the upcoming BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2019. Sarah English, John McGinty and Dylan Wray accepted the award on behalf of Coláiste Pobail Acla at the Worldwide Global Schools Conference in Galway in April.



### Student Awards 2018

Our student awards took place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May. These awards showcased some of the fantastic achievements of our students this year in different areas. Colm Boyle (Mayo Footballer) was our special guest for the awards ceremony and presented the students with their awards and certificates. Particular mention must go to Rebecca Whoriskey who won Junior Student of the Year and to Joe O'Malley who won Senior student of the year.



Well done to all involved. Also in photograph is Ms. Farrell (Deputy Principal).



### St. Patrick's Day Parade



Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March saw Coláiste Pobail Acla's first participation in the Achill Sound St.Patrick's Day Parade. We certainly made an impression with our homemade school bus – designed and made by Transition Year students. Great fun was had by the staff and students who represented the school proudly. Thanks to Ms. Callaghan, Ms. O'Connor and Ms. O'Malley for helping to organise the event.



## Transition Year First Aid Course

Transition Year students took part in a First Aid course in April and received their certificates at the end of May. Some of the many areas covered were:

- Defibrillator
- CPR
- Splints & Bandages
- Cardiac Problems
- Choking
- Respiratory Problems
- Tour of the ambulance
- Spinal Injuries

Many thanks to Mr. Tony McGinty and Dr. Noreen Lineen-Curtis for delivering this excellent course.





### Athletics



43 students from Coláiste Pobail Acla took part in the ETB Athletics competition on 22<sup>nd</sup> May in Ballina with 30 of them winning at least one medal. 66 medals were won in total on a very successful day for our school. One stand-out performer was Dean Guthrie who managed to claim gold in each of his 4 events. Well done to all who competed!

### Comórtas Peile Meánscoileanna na Gaeltachta



**COMHGHAIRDEAS LE PEILEADÓIRÍ ACLA**  
Ghlac Coláiste Muire Tuar Mhic Éadaigh, Coláiste Pobail Acla, Coláiste Naomh Feichín, Corr na Móna agus Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin, An Cheathrú Rua páirt i gcomórtas peile do buachaillí agus cailíní na Gaeltachta inné i bPáirc an Choláiste Tuar Mhic Éadaigh.

Bhuaigh peileadóirí Acla an comórtas na buachaillí agus na cailíní bronnadh Corn Cuimhneacháin Éamuinn Uí Éanacháin (Edmund Heneghan) orthu.

### New School Football Jerseys

Many thanks to Óstán Oileán Acla for their recent sponsorship of two sets of football jerseys. Two framed jerseys were presented to Cathal McLoughlin which will be displayed in the hotel.



### Victory for our Table-Tennis team



Our Table-Tennis Team played against Gaelcoláiste Chomain in March and won the inaugural Comórtas Idirscoile Leadóg Bhoird Shield. There were some fantastic performances which brought us to an 11-9 victory.

### Young Economist of the Year - 2018



Congratulations to Coláiste Pobail Acla's Transition Year students who received a gold medal for their project on 'The Effects of Brexit on Ireland' in the Young Economist of the Year competition (YEOTY 2018) in Croke Park in May 2018. Our Team consisted of Laoise Conway, Emma Mc Nulty, Ciaran Blanch O'Malley and Sean Mc Nulty. They were represented at the awards by 2<sup>nd</sup> year students (as they were in Poland on their school tour). Shannon Vesey, Kiera Corrigan, Thomas McNamara and Rebecca Whoriskey collected the award.....Maith sibh muintir an idir-bhlian.

Picture includes: Jim Enright, Kiera, Thomas, Rebecca, Shannon, Rachel Farrell (PDST) and Mrs McLoughlin.

### Heinrich Boll Essay Writing



By Bridget Foley (1<sup>st</sup> Year)

When Ms. Lavelle first introduced us to the Heinrich Boll Essay Writing Competition I was excited about entering. I wrote a story based on Heinrich Boll's Mrs. D's Ninth Child. I found this story very interesting so I rewrote it in a contemporary way. My story describes the experiences of a teenage girl named Sunshine Petunia Tuesday who was adopted by two men.

I was delighted to hear that my entry was successful and I'm looking forward to writing my next story!