



Mol an Óige

# Coláiste Pobail Acla

School Newsletter

June 2022

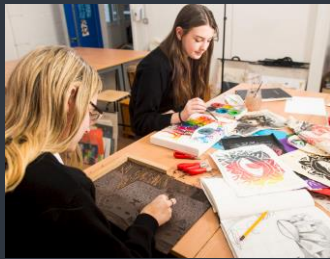
## Contents

Principal & School Development **P.1**

TY Musical **P.2**

Student Awards & Sport in CPA **P.3**

Lá Stairiúil i gColáiste Pobail Acla **P.4**



## Principal's Message

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The summer has arrived marking the end of another school year and I would like to acknowledge the great work done by everybody.

I would like to compliment all of our students who represented our school on the various teams and projects and to our staff who organised all of the extra-curricular activities.

It has been a very successful year for all involved. We have come through a difficult phase with COVID-19 and hopefully we can leave that behind us going forward. It has been a busy year both in the classroom and through extra curricular activities. Our TY musical "Legally Blonde" was a resounding success. Our TY mini companies have shown that hard work and dedication really does pay off with their successes this year. Our newsletter is a snapshot of some of the activities that have taken place in our school throughout the year.

I would like to thank our school community for your support throughout the year, *Tá muid ag obair as lámh a chéile*. I would like to wish our Leaving and Junior Certificate students the very best in their examinations. I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Le meas,  
Mr. Fahy

## School Development

In March of this year, we were delighted to receive official confirmation from the Department of Education in relation to a significant extension to Coláiste Pobail Acla.

This extension will consist of the following: an Art Room, Textiles Room, additional Science Lab, and Science Prep Area, 2 Class SEN Base & a User Assisted WC.

These additions to our school will once again improve our facilities for our students and will ensure we can further cater for the needs of all our students going forward. Over the last 5 years there has been consistent work to gain investment in our school.

Thanks to all our Parents/Guardians, Staff, Board of Management, MSLETB, our local politicians and the local community who have supported the school through its development.

## First Year Bookmark Exchange

In early 2022, First Year bookmarks were sent to Shree Navinal School in India. Our students' bookmarks depicted many different aspects of life on our beautiful island. Led by our librarian, Mrs. McLoughlin, the students participated in the International Association of Libraries Bookmark Exchange Project. Students from all over the world created bookmarks which they sent to a partner school.

## Heinrich Boll Memorial Weekend '22

Coláiste Pobail Acla took part in the Heinrich Boll annual essay competition. This year celebrates the 50-year anniversary of Boll's Nobel Prize for Literature. Students were asked to research the award and to nominate a contemporary Irish text for consideration of a Nobel award.

Our 5 finalists were 5th years: Oran O'Reilly, Laoise McNamara, Éabha Cooney, Claire McNamara, and Penelope Stafferton. The book they nominated was Sebastian Barry's 'Days Without End'.

The overall winner was Penelope Stafferton with her essay: An Irish Book for an International Prize. Laoise McNamara was runner up with: Real Situations, good and bad, have finally been talked about. Thank you to the Heinrich Boll committee, who invited finalists to a presentation in St. Thomas' Church. The five prizewinners received their awards from the German Ambassador to Ireland, Cord Meier-Klodt.



## Irish Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal



Well done to Holly McGing, Muireann Gielty, and Áine McFadden (all 3<sup>rd</sup> year) on raising €910 for the Irish Red Cross Ukraine Crisis appeal. The girls received the Community/Meitheal award at this year's school awards. Thank you to all who supported the girls.

## TY Musical



In May, our TY's brought drama to Halla Acla, Achill Sound for their production of "Legally Blonde Jr." This was the first school performance since the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions and our students did not disappoint on an incredibly entertaining and successful 3-night run.

A musical such as this takes a lot of time, planning and hard work to get to show night. A special thanks goes to the lead teachers involved in the production of the musical, Ms. Callaghan, Ms. O'Malley, Ms. Duffy, Ms. Brinklow, Ms. Patten and Ms. Hanley, for their countless hours planning, practising, and organizing every aspect of the performances.

Thank you also to our choreographer Jason Guthrie our school staff and to local businesses who have supported our school musical. A special thank you to Western Care for the use of Halla Acla . Some stellar performances over the course of the 3 nights had the crowds entertained with special mentions for 'Elle' - Kitty McGinty, 'Emmet' - Eugene Lavelle, and 'Paulette' - Evelyn Rice. The return of the musical this year has certainly raised the bar for future productions to come and we can't wait to get working on next year's show already! Well done to all our students for their roles in helping on and off stage. You have made your school, families, and community very proud. Tá muid fíor-bhrodúil as na scoláirí uilig. Míle Buíochas gach duine.



## Student Awards in Coláiste Pobail Acla

At Coláiste Pobail Acla we give recognition to our students who have excelled throughout the school year. Our awards are presented on the basis of a student's academic achievements, sporting endeavours and overall contribution to our local community. Congratulations to all of this year's winners, we hope this sets these students on the path to further success.

### Senior Student of the Year:

Kiera Corrigan



### 1st Year Student of the Year:

Mícheál Ruddy

### 2nd Year Student of the Year:

Mikey Wilson

### Junior Student of the Year:

Clodagh English

### TY Students of the Year:

Jamie McGinty & Kitty McGinty

### Fifth Year Student of the Year:

Elliott McNea

### Junior Female Sports person of the Year:

Eilís Murphy

### Junior Male Sports person of the Year:

Ethan McDonnell

### Senior Male Sports person of the Year:

Conor English

## BT Young Scientist



Elliott McNea and Oran O'Reilly (both 5<sup>th</sup> year) competed in the National Final of this year's BT Young Scientist of the year competition. They received their certificate of award from their mentor teacher, Ms. Corcoran, for their project "Investigating the Potential Applications of Quantum Entanglement."

## 5<sup>th</sup> Year Coffee Morning



This year, our 5<sup>th</sup> Year students ran a very successful Coffee Morning to raise €500 for the annual 'Daffodil Day'. It was lovely to be able to open our doors again to the local community. Thank you to all who popped in for a quick cup and a chat, and for all the generous donations made to this very worthwhile cause.

## Sport in Coláiste Pobail Acla



- **GAA**- This year saw the welcome return to competitive football competitions for both our male and female teams. It was fantastic to see our students pull on the school jersey again after the Covid restrictions over the past few years. Several of our students have also represented the Achill Junior team and the Achill Ladies team this year. Our 1<sup>st</sup> year and 2<sup>nd</sup> year boys competed in the ETB 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> year final this May and beat St Joseph's Charlestown on a scoreline of 5-13 to 1-09. Well done to Mr. Ginty and the entire squad!

- **Rugby**-Some of our female students have continued to train with Westport Rugby Club after an introductory 4-week rugby course held in CPA before Christmas. Eilís Murphy, Anne Ginnelly (both 3<sup>rd</sup> Year) and Megan Cooney (2<sup>nd</sup> Year) all attended trials for the Connacht Women's Underage Rugby squads this term.

- **Athletics** - Our students competed in a host of athletic events this term. We brought home several medals in lots of different events from the ETB Sports day in Ballina. We also had 14 students who qualified from the North Connacht Schools Athletics competition to the Connacht stage of the All-Ireland Athletics competition, held in Athlone in May where they competed to a very high standard.

## Jackie Fox

On Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, our 3<sup>rd</sup>, TY, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Years were honoured to have Jackie Fox as a guest speaker. Over the past couple of years Jackie has been campaigning and talking to schools across the country about 'Coco's Law.' Unfortunately, in 2018 Jackie lost her daughter Nicole to suicide. Nicole had been the victim of physical bullying but also online bullying. Jackie fought for legislation, which was passed by Michael D Higgins, to make online bullying a criminal offence in Ireland. The Bill, known as 'Coco's Law', makes online harassment, stalking, and sharing intimate images online without consent, crimes punishable by law. Although Jackie's talk was hard hitting, we feel that it is of huge importance for students to understand the importance of online safety and the consequences that can lead from their actions.

## Graduate.ie Quiz Winners

Congratulations to Realtín McHugh and Turlough Mulligan (both TY) who were winners of the Graduate.ie Quiz during the year and will join other students from across Ireland on a European Parliament trip visiting Brussels, Luxembourg, and Strasbourg. Thomas McNamara (6<sup>th</sup> Year) was on a similar trip this Easter where he met Seán Kelly MEP, Maria Walsh MEP, and many other dignitaries at the European Parliament in Brussels.



## Cúrsa Iriseoirí TG4

Ghlac scoláirí TY páirt i gcúrsa "Iriseoirí an lae amárach" le TG4. Teillifís, raidió agus na meán shóisialta a bhí idir lámhe ag na daltaí i rith an cúrsa. Bhain siad go leor sult as.

## First Year Geography and Culture Trip

First year students had Tomás McLoughlin as their guide as he shared his vast knowledge of Achill as they toured the locality. They saw many geographical coastal features such as Sea Caves, Sea Arches and Blowholes along the coastline. They visited the Deserted Village in Slievemore along with many other sites throughout the course of the day followed by lunch in Óstán Oileán Acla.

## Transition Year Partnership

CPA hosted a group of Students from Scoil Ghramadaí Naomh Iósaef from Donaghmore, Co Tyrone in March. Our TY students took part in a range of cultural, language and sporting activities with the visiting students over the three days. The Tyrone students were based in the Achill Outdoor Education Centre and joined the students from CPA for numerous activities as Gaeilge.

## Lá Stairiúil i gColáiste Pobail Acla

We had a fantastic experience this May when the RTÉ Radio na Gaeltachta show 'Iris Aniar' broadcast live from Coláiste Pobail Acla. There was plenty of music and conversation from the students and the school staff. Tá cartlann ceoil agus amhráin atá luachmhar agus a théann siar na céadta bliain le tabhairt do Choláiste Pobail Acla. Tá an chartlann amhráin i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge, dánta, scéalta agus ceoil bailithe ag John 'Twin' McNamara le hochtó bliain anuas. Is amhránaí traidisiúnta é John a bhfuil ardmheas air sa cheantair agus sa chontae. Is iar-phríomhoide ar Scoil Náisiúnta Dumha Acha é ar Oileán Acla. Dúirt Príomhoide Choláiste Pobail Acla, Mr. Paul Fahy, go raibh pobal na scoile agus pobail na háite uilig thar a bheith sásta go raibh an chartlann ag fanacht ar an oileán. "Tá an-mheas ar John Twin ní hamháin ar Oileán Acla ach ar fud na tíre. Is mór an onóir dúinn go bhfuil an chartlann againn sa scoil agus go mbeidh tairbhe ann don glúnta atá le teacht," a dúirt an Príomhoide. The archive will be safely kept and catalogued in the school and is a fantastic cultural and historical resource for our students and the wider community, and will be for years to come.



## Achill Seaweed Soak & Climb with Charlie



Comhghairdeas le Sean McNamara, Dylan Guthrie, Jamie McGinty agus Diarmuid Cooney a bhuaigh Craobh Réigiúnach do Chlár na gComhlachtaí.

Bhí an comórtas urraithe ag Údarás na Gaeltachta. Their company 'Achill Seaweed Soak' took first place and really impressed the judges in the Regional Mini Company Secondary Schools competition. The students were inspired by the courage of both Charlie Bird & Vicky Phelan and set up an iDonate page to support their charities. They also donated 15% of all sales of 'Achill Seaweed Soak' to the charity. This donation, along with other fundraising events in the school, raised over €1700 for this fantastic cause.

After taking first place in the regional Údarás na Gaeltachta competition, they were also chosen to represent Mayo in the All-Ireland Final in the Senior category of the Student Enterprise Competition. Added to this, the boys won a prize of €400 to aid their business development.

Well done to Jamie, Diarmuid, Dylan, Sean and Ms. Moran for all their hard work. Well done to all of our other TY enterprises this year. We hope to see a similar standard from next year's Transition Year group!

Coláiste Pobail Acla,  
Polranny,  
Achill,  
Co. Mayo

Phone: 09845139

Email: [info@cpacla.ie](mailto:info@cpacla.ie)

Website: [www.colaistepobailacla.ie](http://www.colaistepobailacla.ie)