



Coláiste Pobail Acla

Important Dates

- **22nd December**
- Final day of term
- **8th January**
- School reopens
- **31st Jan- 8th February**
- Mock exams & Term 2 assessments
- **5th February**
February Bank Holiday
- **6th - 9th February**
- TY Work Experience
- **12th - 16th February**
- Mid Term break
- **18th March**
- School closed
- **19th - 22nd March**
- TY Work Experience
- **25th March - 5th April**
- Easter Holidays
- **22nd - 26th April**
- 5th Year Work Experience
- **6th May**
- May Bank Holiday
- **22nd May - 29th May**
- Term 3 assessments
- **31st May**
- School closes for summer holidays
- **5th June**
- State Exams begin



Principal's Message

Dear Students, Parents, Staff, and Community Members,

As we approach this festive season, I am so appreciative for the warm welcome and incredible support I've received since taking up the post as principal during the month of September here in Coláiste Pobail Acla. It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know each and everyone of you, and I am humbled by the spirit of togetherness and dedication that defines our school community.

As we gather to celebrate Christmas, it is a time to reflect on the values of kindness, compassion, respect and unity. This holiday season, I am inspired by the limitless potential and unwavering enthusiasm of our students, the commitment and expertise of our faculty and staff, the steadfast support from parents, and the invaluable contributions of our local community.

This Christmas marks a new chapter in our journey together—a chapter filled with promise, optimism, and the boundless possibilities that lie ahead. Our collective efforts and shared aspirations pave the way for a future where learning knows no bounds and where each member of our community is empowered to thrive. an environment that encourages growth, resilience, and understanding.

Nuachtlitir Scoile

Nollaig 2023

Contents

Principal's Message **P.1**

Raven Kaster **P.2**

News Snippets **P.3**

Digital Media, Women in Tech, & TY Musical **P.4**

I believe that the heart of our school lies not just within these walls but within the bonds we've cultivated—forging connections that transcend the ordinary and fostering an environment that encourages growth, resilience, and understanding.

May this holiday season bring you joy, peace and a renewed sense of hope. Let us cherish the moments spent with loved ones, extend a helping hand to those in need and embrace the diversity that enriches our community.

I am immensely grateful for the privilege to serve as your principal and look forward to the wonderful opportunities and achievements that await us in the coming year. Together, let us continue to build a future filled with success and positivity for Coláiste Pobail Acla. “Ní neart go cur le chéile”, partnership is the key to our future success.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a joyful holiday season!

Warm regards,

Jason Ó Mongáin
Principal,
Coláiste Pobail Acla



Coiste Gaeilge agus Gaelbhratach

Bionn an Coiste den Ghaelbhratach an-ghnóthach ag eagrú imeachtaí i rith na scoilbhliana chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn i gCPA agus sa phobal. Beatha Teanga í a labhairt! Leanaigí ar instagram @coistegaeilge_cpa

Christmas Carol Service

Our students put on a wonderful and thoughtful show with their Christmas Carol service held in Achill Sound Church recently. It was a fantastic opportunity for our talented group of students to showcase their ability. Many of our students also visited the residents of St. Fionnán's nursing home to entertain them with some festive songs. Thank you to all who came and joined us in our celebration ahead of the festive period.

Foireann díospóireachta

Ghlac foireann díospóireachta ón gcúigiú bliain páirt i gComórtas Díospóireachta Uí Phiaraisiagh le déanaí agus rinne siad an-iarracht ar fad. Freisin, ghlac foireann sóisearach páirt i gComórtas Díospóireachta Uí Chadhain. Lá iontach i gCorr na Móna



Óiche Cultúir

Chuir muíid seó ar siúl do na daltaí sóisearacha ag ceiliúradh Óiche Chultúir i Mí Mheán Fómhair. Bhí ceol, damhsa, dánta agus amhránaíocht ar siúl.



TY First Aid

Croí kindly visited our TY students early in the year to show them basic first aid skills which are a vital skill for everybody to be aware of.



'Raven Kaster'



Having survived giant waves and two storms in the Atlantic, Raven Kaster's journey across the ocean ended after 102 days when it washed ashore on Dookinella beach in February 2019. With the help of the Achill Experience Aquarium and social media, the Raven Kaster was spotted by the students of Frank Roberts Junior High, thus creating a unique link between students of the Canadian school and our very own students, here in Coláiste Pobail Acla.

The teacher and students involved in the experiment - Thomas Shepard, Stephanie Evans and Kaithlyn Grundly, visited Achill, with the intention of relaunching 'Raven Kaster'. The students recalled tracking the boat's progress when it suddenly came to a stop on Dookinella beach. Both said that it was a dream come true to visit Achill and see where the boat came ashore. 'Raven Kaster' has since been repaired and following fundraising on both sides of the Atlantic, it has been upgraded to include sensors to measure air and water temperature as well as a camera. Ms. Lavelle, the geography teacher in Coláiste Pobail Acla, said it was exciting to meet her Canadian counterparts and the experience will live with her and her pupils for a very long time.

"It was great to be involved in the project and regenerate that kind of excitement from 2018 when it washed in originally and for the kids to get involved in it. It is brilliant to have the team from Frank Roberts here. We have been in contact for the last year and a half through video calls but to have them here and show them where it washed in on Dookinella beach is fantastic."

The plan is to liaise with the Marine Institute in Ireland to launch the boat off Ireland and track where the current brings it. Letters from students in Achill will be placed in it and it is hoped that whoever finds it when it goes ashore will make contact with the Achill students. The Irish Ambassador to Canada, Eamon McKee, also visited Achill to welcome the Canadian visitors and explained that there are deep cultural links between Ireland and Newfoundland. Gifts including the flag of Newfoundland were presented to the Achill contingent and Thomas hopes that the simple science experiment will result in greater ties between Achill and Newfoundland.

The school are privileged to be involved in such a project and has helped our students have a great appreciation for collaboration between themselves but also with their counterparts on the other side of the Atlantic.

Earlier this year Coláiste Pobail Acla were heavily involved in sparking new ties with Canadian students and their teachers after a Canadian mini boat washed ashore on an Achill beach. The mini boat, called the 'Raven Kaster', had been launched on November 11, 2018, from a school in Newfoundland.

Student Voice

The Student Voice Committee comprises of a group of students from first to sixth year who meet regularly throughout the year to express their views and opinions on various aspects of school life. Minutes from the meetings are recorded and brought back to management who then take opinions and suggestions into account with regards to the organisation and management of the school. Elections took place in September this year. The newly elected students along with their deputy's are:

Áine Curtis & Diarmuid Price (6th Year), **Eoin Murphy & Keelin Gallagher** (5th Year), **Matthew McGreal & Oisín Curtis** (TY), **Aoibhe Sweeney & Frank Kirwan** (3rd Year), **Chloe Patten & Matthew Kilbane** (2nd Year), **Aisling Connaghan & Mikey Kilbane** (1st Year)

GAA- Busy term for competitive football for both boys and girls

In the past few months we have fielded several teams across all age groups in GAA football.



It was great to see so many students taking part in sport. All those involved showed great team spirit throughout each competition. All of our teams remained competitive during their respective leagues and represented the school admirably.

Rugby - Rugby skills sessions

Our 1st years attended a rugby blitz held in Ballinrobe in early December. This is in addition to a tag rugby event before Halloween. They have received coaching during PE to help with their basic skills and understanding of the game. On a cold wet blustery day in Ballinrobe, there was intricate play and dancing feet on show as our students showcased the skills, they have been learning throughout the year.



Gléasadh Suas - Oíche Shamhna

Bhí spraoi agus ruaille buaille i gColáiste Pobail Acla nuair a chuir múinteoirí agus scoláirí éide bréige orthu don Oíche Shamhna! Chuir TYs scannáin ar siúl agus bhí comórtas ann don éide bréige is fearr. An-chraic!



Shoebox Appeal 2023



Our Transition Year students put in a phenomenal group effort in the run up to Christmas. They fundraised, organised, and donated shoe boxes full of presents to the International Children's Charity "Team Hope". Fair plé do na scoláire, múinteoirí agus tuismitheoirí a thug tacaíocht dóibh.

Hamlet

Our Leaving Cert students travelled to Athlone to watch a performance of Hamlet, the William Shakespeare play. Seeing the play in this setting will help them in their study of the play for their Leaving Cert exam.

Well-being week

There was a plethora of activities arranged for our students to coincide with well-being week. We had swimming, surfing, bog snorkeling, workshops, chocolate crepes, sports competitions, movies and healthy lunches. 1st Years took in a trip to Knock Basilica, while our TY students also had a day of reflection in Ballintubber Abbey. They even managed to put Mr. Egan through his paces as they completed two miles of the historic Tochár Padraig walk.



Leaving Cert Ag Science

Our Leaving Cert Ag Science students attended ATU Mountbellew Agricultural College where they had the opportunity to learn about the courses available. They were given a guided tour of the college facilities and met members of staff who provided helpful information as they consider their futures for when they complete their Leaving Certificate.



State exam results

Congratulation to Óran O'Reilly who achieved the maximum 625 points in his Leaving Certificate in 2023. Óran is currently studying Medicine at Trinity College in Dublin.



Comhghairdeachas le gach dalta a fuair torthaí na Sraithe Sóisearaí I mí Dheireadh Fómhair. Congratulations also to all our students who received their Junior Cycle results in October. Well done to all on a fantastic set of results.



Euroscola Strasbourg

Graduate.ie competition winners, Rachel McNulty and Kayla Connaghan (both Transition year) travelled to Strasbourg with Ms. Moran to get an insight into the workings of the EU Commission. Well done girls!



Big Brother Big Sister

We have continued our Big Brother Big Sister initiative throughout this term. Our 5th Year students were paired with our youngest students to help ease their transition to CPA. They check in at regular intervals through games, activities, and quizzes to make sure there are no issues.



Drumming Workshop

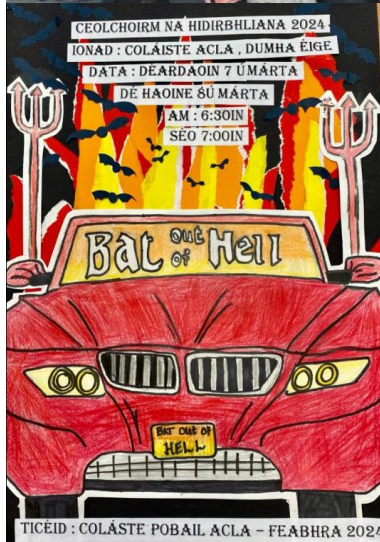
A drumming workshop for First Years and TY students was held in September facilitated by Anthony McNamee. Our students enjoyed being able to work on their timing and rhythm skills throughout the workshop.

Digital Media in Coláiste Pobail Acla

Digital media has transformed the world we live in and students at Coláiste Pobail Acla who partake in the school's Digital Media TY module are preparing and are 'focused' on the jobs of the future.

Broadcasting, graphic design, podcasting, artificial intelligence, animation and analytics are just some of the topics the students cover in the Digital Media course.

Students from Coláiste Pobail Acla have already won the National ETB Podcast of the Year accolade and are constantly developing new digital media skills that will bolster their employment opportunities in the future.'



Women in Tech in Theatre

On Tuesday, November 14th, 20 students from CPA attended a workshop provided by the Lir and Abbey theatres at the Linenhall in Castlebar. The workshop was funded by Bank of America and was titled 'Women in Tech in Theatre'.

The students experienced the work of sound and lighting technicians as well as stage management and performance. They then had the opportunity to put on a performance which incorporated all elements. A wonderful experience was had by all! We hope to get involved with more workshops in this and related areas in the future. Thanks to librarian, Ms. O'Reilly, for accompanying our students on the trip.



Ceolchoirm na hIdirbhiliana 2024

Preparations for this year's school musical 'Bat Out of Hell' are well underway. This year's production will be held in Coláiste Acla, in Dooega, on the 7th & 8th of March 2024. The show will begin at 7pm each night, and tickets will be available from the school in February 2024. Thank you to all local businesses for their continued support and sponsorship of the event. We appreciate all students, parents, guardians and members of the local community who have supported our students throughout the year. Our TY Christmas raffle will be held at the end of term, with the proceeds of this raffle going towards the shows costs. We cannot wait for you all to enjoy our show in the New Year!

Coláiste Pobail Acla,
Polranny,
Achill,
Co. Mayo