



Coláiste Pobail Acla

Important Dates

- 20nd December
 - Final day of term
- 6th January
 - School reopens
- 27th Jan - 7th February
 - Mock exams
- 17th - 21st February
 - Mid Term break
- 6th - 7th March
 - TY Musical
- 17th March
 - School closed
- 11th April - 27th April
 - Easter Holidays
- 28th April
 - School reopens
- 28th April - 2nd May
 - 5th year Work Experience
- 5th May
 - May Bank Holiday
- 19th May - 23rd May
 - 10/10/10 Examinations
- 30th May
 - School closes for summer holidays
- 4th June
 - State Exams begin



Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

As we approach the festive season, I would like to take this opportunity to extend warm Christmas wishes to all members of our Coláiste Pobail Acla community. This year has been filled with growth, learning, and achievements.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff for their unwavering commitment to supporting our students. Their hard work and care ensure that each student can thrive, both academically and personally.

We are also delighted to share that our school's building extension project is progressing positively to Phase 2A design approval, after which we move toward the planning phase 2B. This marks an exciting step forward for the future of our school.

To our students, your resilience, enthusiasm, and achievements continue to inspire us. You make our school a vibrant and special place. Thank you for your hard work and for being such an integral part of our school community.

To parents and guardians, your support is invaluable, and we truly appreciate the partnership we share in fostering the best environment for our students. As we embrace the holiday season, I wish you and your families a safe, joyful, and peaceful Christmas. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, ready for another successful chapter together.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise Daoibh,

Jason Ó Mongáin
Príomhoide

Nuachtlitir Scoile

Nollaig 2024

Contents

- Transition Year Road Safety P.1
- Oíche Chultúir & Career Fairs P.2
- Sport agus Spraoi P.3
- School Trips P.4

Road Safety Programme

Students and staff from Coláiste Pobail Acla attended the launch of the TY RSA Road Safety Programme at Marian College, Dublin. The event was officiated by Minister for Education, Norma Foley, who introduced the programme. This new 10-week programme, developed by the Road Safety Authority (RSA), aims to address rising concerns about the number of deaths and serious injuries among young people in recent years. The programme includes topics such as an overview of road safety, learning to drive, car components, the impact of speed, alcohol and drug use, distractions, safety belts, and vulnerable road users. Students will also undergo an assessment as part of the course. Coláiste Pobail Acla is proud to have had our students invited to attend this important event. Pictured with our students and staff members at the event are Norma Foley, Minister for Education, Tom O'Grady, Chief Executive MSLETB, Mary Madden, Director of Schools for MSLETB and Caroline McHale, who developed the Programme.



Student Voice

The Student Voice Committee meet regularly throughout the year to express their views and opinions on various aspects of school life. This year's newly elected students are Eoin Murphy & Keelin Gallagher (6th year), Matthew McGreal & Amy McNulty (5th year), Aoi bhe Sweeney & Frank Kirwan (4th year), Rory Moran, Matthew Kilbane & Ava Moran (3rd year), Aisling Connaghan & Cathal Cafferkey (2nd year) & Richard Fitzgerald & Laura McGreal (1st year).

School Musical

This year's school musical is 'Grease' and will be held in Coláiste Acla, Dooega on the 6th and 7th of March 2025. The group have all been cast and are busily learning lines, songs and dance routines in preparation for the opening show! We are thoroughly looking forward to the show!

Halloween Spooky Story Competition

Well done to all participants in the English Department's Spooky Story competition at Halloween especially to the overall winners, Sebastian Barclay and Polina Andruschenko (both 1st Year)



TY Trip to Tynagh

Our Transition Year students had a great day out in Galway at the beginning of term where they went go karting and paintballing with Mr. Shannon



Oíche Chultúir (Culture Night)



For Oíche Chultúir 2024 our students showcased a rich variety of songs and poems in both English and 'as Gaeilge'. Our programme celebrated local heritage while also embracing new cultural influences from our diverse student body, including Ukrainian, Slovakian, Belgian, Japanese, and German participants.

The evening featured a blend of traditional and modern works, such as Renée Thornton's "Achill," the Irish classic "Mo Ghile Mear," the contemporary hit "When September Ends," and concluded with the beloved anthem "The Green and Red of Mayo."

Connacht Education and Training Expo & Careers Fair

5th Year students from Coláiste Pobail Acla attended the Education and Training Expo/Taispeántas Oideachais agus Oiliúna, at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence Air Dome in Bekan, while our Leaving Cert students attended a career fair in the Galmont Hotel, Galway. These important events offer students a chance to explore a wide array of educational and career options as they approach the end of their second level education.

There were a large number of stands to reflect the wide range of options available to students after post-primary level, including universities, Further Education and Training options, as well as the vast number of apprenticeships available.



Sport in Coláiste Pobail Acla

• GAA – Busy term for competitive football



We have had an action packed few months as we fielded several teams across all age groups in GAA. Teams at all ages have been representing the school all around the county and province.

• Hurling - Gaeliomána

Is mór do Coláiste Pobail Acla agus Bord Oideachais, Oiliúna Mhaigh Eo, Shligigh agus Liatroma mar chuid de Chlár Tacaíochta Pobail agus Teanga a fhógairt go bhfuil maoiniú suantasach ceadaithe do scéim phíolta iomána le haghaidh cúig Iar-Bhunscoil Gaeltachta i gContae Mhaigh Eo.

Tá an scéim seo a riaradh ag Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Mhaigh Eo, Shligigh, agus Liatroma thar cheann an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán.

Is é sprioc na scéime seo ná an iománaíocht a chur chun cinn sna hiar-bhunscoileanna Gaeltachta ar bhealach struchtúrtha, pleanáilte agus taitneamach trí mheán na Gaeilge.

Is cúis áthais do Coláiste Pobail Acla a chomhpháirtíocht le TG4 a fhógairt don scéim seo. Tríd an gcomhoibriú seo beidh TG4 agus an clár “MolScéal” ag craoladh clár seachtainiúil bunaithe ar dhul chun cinn na scoláirí, rud a chuirfidh go mór le heispéireas foghlama na ndaltaí

• Soccer

Best of luck to Andrea Kilbane (1st Year) who has been selected to represent Mayo in the U14 Interleague Squad for the upcoming season! We know she will be a fantastic representative for the county.

Parents Association

The Parents Association has continued to work behind the scenes by fundraising and providing support to our school community throughout the academic year. Anybody interested in becoming a member can find details of the next meeting advertised on our Facebook page.

Choir

Our students visited the local national schools ahead of their performance of their Christmas Concert in Achill Sound Church on 17th December. It was a fantastic opportunity for our talented group of students to showcase their ability with an evening of Carols and reflection. Well done to all involved.



Darts Competition

Well done to Briain Daly who was the overall winner of the darts competition held as part of this years ‘Maths Week’. He was the last player standing out of over 60 entrants. Well done, Briain



Maths Week

A host of activities were held in Coláiste Pobail Acla for ‘Maths Week’ in November. Junior Cycle students took part in the Maths Olympiad along with thousands of other students across the country. Over sixty participants took part in our lunchtime darts competition, Patrick Gallagher (3rd Year) won our ‘Guess how many sweets in the jar’ competition, while our ‘Drop everything and do a Sudoku’ proved extremely popular across all year groups. See how you fare out with this one!

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Science Week

Our students took part in a variety of activities to mark Science Week 2024. There were poster competitions, webinars, class table quizzes and a lot of experiments in the Science lab! Our 2nd Year students also completed their classroom-based assessments to coincide with the week, while our 3rd year students took part in a Science themed poster competition.



Shoebox Appeal 2024

Our Transition Year students fundraised, organised and donated over 31 Shoe Boxes to the International Children's Charity 'Team Hope'. Fair plé do na scoláire, múinteoirí agus tuismitheoirí uilig a thug tacaíocht dóibh. Ní neart go cur le chéile.



World of Work programme

Our second year students are currently taking part in a World of Work programme with Business in the Community Ireland. The students recently took part in a soft skills session with Mayo ATU and students who are completing the BA (Hons) Outdoor education. Thanks to Ms. Munroe for organising the event.



Airplane Art Project

Conor Kilbane (3rd Year- Room 23) completed an impressive art project on one of his favourite interests – airplanes! Together with the help of Ms. Callaghan and Mr. Shannon, Conor's creation has over 90 airplanes on show! Well done to Conor on his hard work in all his subjects throughout this term.



Leaving Cert Pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick

Our Leaving Cert students went on pilgrimage last Thursday to Croagh Patrick. The students supported and encouraged each other every step of the way, leaving no one behind. They were blessed with beautiful sunshine and spectacular views from the top. After a bite to eat and some quiet reflection and prayer in the church, they made their way back down the mountain. Our students were praised by others for their encouragement and uplifting spirits to each other and other pilgrims they passed. It was a wonderful way to start the year together and a reminder that in what may be a difficult year ahead, if we stick together and look out for one another, we will all get there. We wish all our Leaving Cert students the best of luck in their final year.



First Year trip to Ballintubber Abbey

Our first year students went on retreat to Ballintubber Abbey. Students enjoyed time to explore the grounds and learn about the rich faith of our ancestors. They reflected on the importance of being a good friend and took time to pray for all their loved ones and their intentions.



Ecological Field Trip – Leaving Cert students visit Wild Nephin National Park, Ballycroy

Our Leaving Cert Biology class and Ms. Corcoran went on their ecological fieldtrip to "Wild Nephin National Park- Ballycroy Visitor Centre" earlier this year. The students participated in numerous ecological investigations on qualitative and quantitative analysis on a wide range of flora and fauna in the area. This field trip will enhance their knowledge and learning in preparation for their upcoming Leaving Certificate.



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