

Coláiste Pobail Acla Christmas Newsletter

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Principal's Message

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

As we approach the end of the year and the festive season, I would like to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to all members of our Coláiste Pobail Acla community.

This year has once again been marked by progress, collaboration and achievement. I want to sincerely thank our dedicated staff for their continued commitment to supporting our students. Their professionalism, care and enthusiasm help create an environment where our students can flourish, both in their learning and in their personal development.

We are also pleased to share that our school extension project continues to move forward, with progress now advancing toward Phase 2A design approval before the transition to planning phase. This represents an exciting milestone for the future and the evolving needs of our school community.

To our students, your energy, curiosity and determination are at the heart of everything we do as educators. You bring life to our school each day and your achievements, big and small, make us proud. Thank you for your efforts and for the positive spirit you contribute to Coláiste Pobail Acla.



To our parents and guardians, your support, trust and partnership play an essential role in the success of our school community. We deeply appreciate your ongoing engagement and encouragement which we would like to develop further through the Parents' Council in the New Year.

As we move into the holiday period, I wish you and your families a restful, enjoyable and peaceful break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year as we continue our journey together.

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise Daoibh,
Jason Ó Mongáin
Príomhoide



msletb
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Mhaigh Eo, Shligigh agus Liatroma
Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim
Education and Training Board

Sport & Extra-Curricular Activities in CPA

Kit Sponsorship & GAA

Heartfelt thanks to Martina O'Hara and Ken Horgan from Fresh Today School Lunches for sponsoring our new Ladies Football kit. Principal Jason Ó Mongáin and Ms. Munroe accepted the kit on behalf of the team, who now step onto the pitch with renewed pride. Teams have represented the school admirably at all levels. A special mention goes to Teddy McNamara who represented Mayo U-14 footballers earlier this year.



Soccer Stars

Huge congratulations and best wishes to our soccer superstars selected to represent Mayo. Odhran Daly and Richard Fitzgerald both represented the Mayo Schoolboys U-14 in the National Inter-leagues competition. Richard also came second in the KPMG Connacht Boys U12's competition in golf earlier this year.

Andrea Kilbane has made it back in to the Mayo Schoolgirls U-15 squad for the upcoming season.

Rhys Callaghan becomes the first Achill Rovers' representative in our emerging Mayo FC team, signing from his local team this month. This is a huge achievement for Rhys, who will now play League of Ireland with his county. Congratulations to these fantastic ambassadors for the school!



Olympic Handball

Our Junior Girls and Junior Boys teams put in a massive effort at the Olympic Handball Connacht Blitz in ATU Sligo. Our teams played with heart, skill and great sportsmanship. We didn't make the final, but there was loads to be proud of and plenty learned for the next day out! Huge thanks to Olympic Handball Ireland for organising, to ATU Sligo for hosting, and to all our students for representing CPA so well!



Gael-iomána

We were delighted to join Minister Dara Calleary TD at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence, Began, for the launch of Gael-iomána, a brand new Irish-language initiative for Transition Year students. Funded by Roinn na Gaeltachta and coordinated by MSLETB, Gael-iomána promotes the everyday use of Irish through sport, media and cultural engagement. The programme will run in five Mayo Gaeltacht post-primary schools Coláiste Pobail Acla, Gaelcholáiste Chomáin, Saint Brendan's College, Belmullet, Convent of Mercy, Belmullet, and Coláiste Muire, Tuar Mhic Éadaigh. Coláiste Pobail Acla is delighted to support MSLETB in bringing this innovative project to life



Trips, talks and Careers!

Teen Turn & Cyber Safe Kids

Talks by Teen Turn and Cyber Safe Kids educated students on digital safety. Thank you to Iseult and Helena for their engagement.



SOAR Wellness Workshops

Students took part in SOAR workshops focusing on emotional wellbeing and self-reflection in supportive spaces.



World Skills Day – TYs in Dublin

TY students explored diverse career pathways at WorldSkills Day in the RDS, discovering everything from apprenticeships to creative careers.



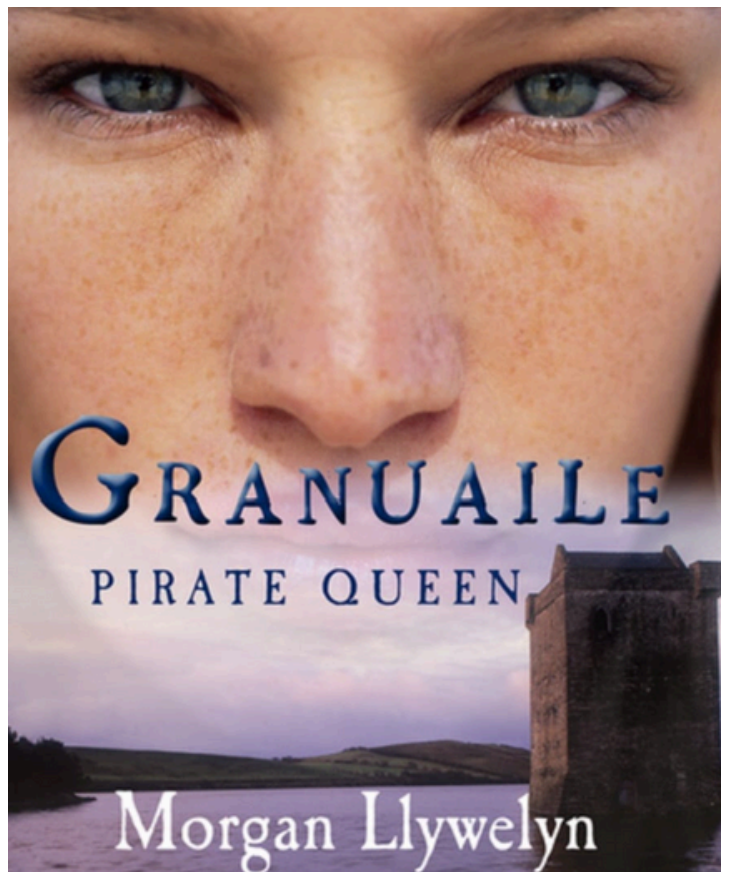
Art Trip

Senior Students recently visited the National Gallery of Ireland to the 'Picasso: From the Studio Exhibition.' Thank you to Ms Callaghan for accompanying the students.



One Book One Read 2026

Next March, on World Book Day, Coláiste Pobail Acla are looking forward to welcoming students from local national schools to take part in this annual event. This year, First Year and Sixth students will all be reading 'Grainuaile: Pirate Queen' by Morgan Llywelyn. We will come together to discuss the story and work on exciting and challenging literacy activities. Our Second Year students are preparing a presentation for the incoming students, to introduce them to what student life in Coláiste Pobail Acla is really like.



Ecology Field Trip

Leaving Cert Biology students visited Wild Nephin National Park for ecological field studies on flora and fauna.



Bank of Ireland Financial Literacy

As part of the Money Smarts programme, Transition Year students learned about financial literacy and enterprise from Amy Dowling of Bank of Ireland. Amy provided a very informative talk on fraud and the risks of phishing emails, smishing messages and vishing calls.



Galway Barista School

Transition Year students welcomed the Galway Barista School to Achill, to learn all things coffee! The day was engaging and full of intrigue, allowing the students to learn the skills of the barista, while also sampling some of the finest coffee available.

Conor Kilbane proved a natural, enjoying some delicious hot chocolate, with the odd staff member sneaking a cappuccino or latte throughout the day too! A thoroughly enjoyable and insightful day had by all. Many thanks to Daniel and Hannah for facilitating us.



Collaboration with ATU Mayo

Second Year Business Studies enjoyed a fantastic morning of learning and collaboration with students from ATU Mayo. Throughout the session, students engaged in a range of activities focused on developing key soft skills, including communication, teamwork, and leadership. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, learning valuable life skills and putting them into practice in a fun and supportive environment.

We are delighted to be involved in the 'Business in the Community Ireland' initiative and are proud to be partnered with ATU Mayo. This partnership offers our students a wonderful opportunity to work alongside college students and gain a valuable insight into the variety of courses and pathways available at ATU. Thank you to the Outdoor Education students from ATU Mayo for contributing to such an inspiring and engaging morning.

iClass School App

We were delighted to roll out the new Coláiste Pobail Acla iClass School App earlier this term. This will become our main platform for school news and communication. This initiative supports our goal of reducing costs and becoming a greener, more sustainable school by cutting down on printed materials.

Thank you to all the parents/guardians who have already signed up. Please ensure notifications are enabled to receive updates. For those still to do so, please download "iClassCMS" from your app store, install it, and **register your student(s)** using our school's verification code (sent separately).

Please do so promptly to avoid missing out on correspondence.

Note: If more than one parent/guardian downloads the app, both must register the student(s) and enable notifications to receive updates.



Gaeilge i CPA

Oíche na gCleamairí

Bhí oíche den scoth againn an mhí seo caite ag céiliúradh ár gcultúr saibhir agus an traidisiúin láidir atá ann anseo leis na Cleamairí.

Phléasc na Cleamairí isteach agus bhí ruaille buaille ann san óstán áitiúil lán le craic, spleodar agus spraoi. Tá an t-ádh orainn anseo go bhfuil an traidisiún seo fós le feiceáil agus míle buíochas do chách a bhí ag obair go dian chun an oíche seo a chur ar siúl. Bhain muid an sult as, gan dabht.



Carúil na Nollag - Ar chamchúirt!

D'fhág muid an scoil go luath agus ar aghaidh linn chuig roinnt de na bunscoileanna áitiúla ag canadh in ard ár gcinn 's ár ngutha



Tionscadal le Meave!

Bhí lucht na dara bliana an-ghnóthach don téarma seo ag déanamh tionscadail iontach leis an ealaíontóir áitiúil Meave Clancy. Bhí ceardlanna gníomhacha acu le chéile ag scríobh, ag tarraingt agus ag cur rud an- speisialta le chéile. Fan go bhfeicfidh sibh!

Gaeilgeoir na Míosa

Comhghairdeachas le hÁine Ní Chuanaigh sa triú bliain a bhuaigh Gaeilgeoir na Míosa. Is éacht iontach é a thaispeánann díograis an dalta agus an iarracht mhaith a dhéannan sí i gcónaí chun an Ghaeilge a labhairt.



Coiste Gaeilge

Tá Coiste Gaeilge nua againn anseo sa scoil agus is iad Katie Ní Dhúgain, Maggie Nic Gearailt agus Orla Nic Conmara sa chúigiú bliain mar cheannairí an Choiste. 'S í an aidhm atá ag an gCoiste ná an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn sa scoil agus gach uile duine a spreagadh le himeachtaí agus le hocáidí chun ár dteanga dhúchais a cheiliúradh.



Best of the rest!

Concern Debates 2025/26

Fifth Years opened their debating season against Newport School, Tipperary, on the motion "Disinformation is the biggest threat to peace in 2025."

They turned in an outstanding performance. Chaired by Levon Henry, our speakers were captained by Sean Gallagher. He was supported by Aoibhe Sweeney, Orla Campbell and Orla Mc Namara. Myles O'Keeffe acted as Timekeeper. The entire fifth year class contributed to the preparation of speeches, with research and constructive criticism.



Cuairt ó John Spillane

Comhghairdeas le Matthew a bhuaigh "Gaeilgeoir na Míosa" i mí Meán Fómhair. Seo é in éineacht leis an amhránaí cáiliúil John Spillane a sheinn ceol dár gcuid daltaí roimh Dooagh Folk Fest.



Shona Project

All Junior and Senior Girls attended the Confidence & Positive Mindset workshops from the Shona Project. The workshop covered the importance of a positive mindset and how to build confidence & enhance self esteem by knowing your own values.

Mayo Harp Ensemble

Third year student Anam Khan performed with the Mayo Harp Ensemble, an initiative of Grainne Hambly and Music Generation Mayo. The stunning concert took place in Foxford Woollen Mills as part of the Foxford Traditional Weekend 2025. Well done Anam.



Gaelbhratach

Daltaí díograiseacha lenár mbratach álainn! Tá muid lán le bród ag labhairt na Gaeilge i gColáiste Pobail Acla

Pool, Darts, Chess & Green School Committee

Visit from St Brendan's College, Belmullet Pool Competition

Boys' and Girls' teams from Coláiste Pobail Acla and St. Brendan's College, Belmullet, displayed great skill and control in a pool competition this term. The Belmullet teams proved too strong for our teams, but all players performed well and with more practice we can look forward to a closer rematch.

Chess Competition

10 students from each school took part. Every player on each team played against each individual from the opposition throughout the day. The Coláiste Pobail Acla team won the overall competition with some great match-ups and performances from the Belmullet team also. The standard on display was brilliant and provided an exciting series of matches.

Thanks to Óstán Oileán Acla for providing lunch and for the use of the function room.

Darts Competition

Over 80 students eagerly took part in a darts competition that was held in conjunction with Maths week. Liam Gallagher, Fifth Year, was the overall winner, beating Donnacha English-McNamara, Second Year, in the final. Well done to all students who took part. Thanks to those who provided the equipment, and chalked the games!



Westport Sea 2 Summit

Our PE teacher, Ms. McLoughlin had a superb win earlier this year, winning the Supreme Ladies Category in the Westport Sea 2 Summit Race.



Green School's Committee

Our new Green School's Committee is made up of:

Chairperson: Sadhbh Sims

Secretaries:

Chantel O'Malley and Ava Gardiner

PRO: Paddy Callaghan

Treasurer: Alanna Fitzsimons



Carol Service and festive helpers!

Carol Service

Our students took part in a wonderful Carol Service in Achill Sound Church. They showcased their talents and put on a fantastic display for the large crowd who gathered to support our students. Funds raised from the Service will go towards the upcoming TY Musical 'Jump into the 80's' to be held in March 2026. Thank you to Ms. Duffy for all her hard work in putting the Carol Service together, and of course to the students involved!



Christmas Market

Transition years students held a Christmas Market in the final week of term. They were very well supported. Students enjoyed hot chocolates along with a variety of festive goods and arts and crafts.

A percentage of proceeds will be donated to local charity, Gearóid's Smile, Christmas Toy Drive.

Festive helpers!

Transition Year students recently helped out in the community whilst getting into the festive spirit. Thank you to those who helped to decorate St. Fionnán's Nursing Unit in Achill Sound. Also, a big thank you goes to our TY students who helped out with the St. Colman's Christmas party, held in early December in Óstán Óileán Acla.

Meanwhile, members of Ms. Duffy's choir visited a number of our local primary schools. The students brought great joy to the children with a lovely mix of songs in English and as *Gaeilge*, as well as a beautiful poem in Italian performed by our international student Anna. A wonderful experience for everyone involved! Maith sibh go léir!

