

Coláiste Pobail Acla

Summer Newsletter
2026



msletb

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

Principal's Message

As we look forward to the summer break, it is an opportune time to reflect on the many accomplishments, experiences and memories that have enriched our school community.

Firstly, we extend our very best wishes to our Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle students as they prepare for the upcoming examinations. Their commitment, determination and hard work over many years have brought them to this important milestone. We wish them every success and encourage them to approach the examinations ahead with confidence in their abilities and pride in all they have achieved.

To all our students, we offer our sincere congratulations and thanks for your dedication to your academic studies and your contributions to school life throughout the year. Your enthusiasm, creativity, kindness and willingness to embrace opportunities have made this another memorable year in Coláiste Pobail Acla.

We are deeply grateful to our parents, guardians and the wider community whose ongoing support has played such an important role in enriching the educational experiences of our students.

The partnership between home, school and community continues to be one of our greatest strengths.

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This year has been marked by many significant milestones and achievements. Our students excelled in a wide range of activities, proudly representing the school both locally and beyond. The Transition Year Musical showcased exceptional talent, teamwork and creativity, while the publication of Make a Book, celebrating local legend Nancy Corrigan, highlighted the rich heritage of our community and the talents of our students. We were also delighted to publish the first edition of the Coláiste Pobail Acla Yearbook, creating a lasting record of the memories, achievements and friendships that define our school.

Leaving Cert Class
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None of these successes would have been possible without the dedication of our students, the support of our parents and community partners, the contribution of our international students and the commitment of our staff. We would like to extend a special farewell and best wishes to our international students as they return home to continue their academic journeys. Their presence has enriched our school community, fostered cultural exchange and created friendships that will endure long after their time in Achill.

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Finally, I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to all members of staff for their professionalism, dedication and unwavering commitment to the education and wellbeing of our students. Their work, often behind the scenes, ensures that our school remains a vibrant, caring and ambitious learning community.

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As summer begins, I hope that everyone in the Coláiste Pobail Acla community enjoys a well-deserved break filled with rest, relaxation and time spent with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming you all back in the new academic year.

Leaving Cert Class of 2026

The Leaving Cert class of 2026 had their Graduation night in Coláiste Pobail Acla on Thursday, 21st May. In the company of their parents, guardians, friends and families, the group reflected on their 6 years in Coláiste Pobail Acla.

They reminisced on how their time here has shaped them into the young men and women that they are today. We wish each and every one of them, all the very best in their future endeavours.



One Book One Read

A huge thank you must go to our second year 'chieftains' who welcomed the incoming first years to our annual One Book One Read event. Our book this year was 'Grainne Uaile: the Pirate Queen' by Morgan Llywelyn.

Sixth class students and first years in Coláiste Pobail Acla participated in a range of activities including flag making, boat building and discussions about the legendary pirate, Grainne. It was so special to think that she sailed the very waters we could see from our classroom windows.

Thank you to all the National School teachers for preparing the students so well. Congratulations to all the students who were a credit to their schools.

Mayo Fleadh

Well done to Anam Khan, 3rd Year, who came 1st in the Uileann Pipes Slow Airs (12-15), and 2nd in the Uileann Pipes (12-15) at the Mayo Fleadh, held in Ballina recently.

He will compete again at the Connacht Fleadh in Mohill later this Summer.

Good luck Anam!



Transition Year Activities

Our Transition Year students have had a fantastic and very busy few weeks, filled with memorable experiences and achievements!

Highlights included their recent trip to Lake Garda and Venice , where students explored beautiful scenery, experienced Italian culture, and enjoyed a thrilling day at Gardaland Theme Park

A particularly special moment was their trip to the cinema to watch their production “Jump into the 80s” on the big screen Seeing all their hard work come together and sharing the experience together again as a group made it a proud and memorable occasion for everyone involved

Students recently took part in driving lessons with Gill’s Driving School along with completing their final hurling session with Joe Greany as part of Gael-Iomána.

A big thank you to Megan Fadian for the delicious cake and cupcakes that she provided for the Transition Year Celebration day where students recounted all the fun activities and events that will be so memorable for them in the future.



Cuairt go Dáil Éireann

Gaelbhratach

Tá muid an-bhródúil gur bronnadh an Gaelbhratach ar scoláirí Choláiste Pobail Acla arís sa bhliain 2026, ocht mbliana as a chéile. Is éacht iontach an gradam seo a bhaint amach. Léiríonn an t-éacht seo go bhfuil meon dearfach ag Coláiste Pobail Acla i leith na Gaeilge agus go bhfuil an fhoireann agus na scoláirí toilteanach an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn. I rith na bliana, eagraíodh imeachtaí Gaeilge éagsúla mar shampla Ceolchoirm le John Spillane, Oíche Chultúir, Tae agus Plé, Tráth na gCeist, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Seisiúin Cheoil agus Seisiúin Amhránaíochta. Cabhraíonn na himeachtaí seo timpeallacht dhearfach Ghaelach a chruthú sa scoil. Mar a deir an Seanfhocal “Beatha Teanga í a Labhairt” Chuaigh an dara bliain ar cuairt chuig an Dáil. Bronnadh an Gaelbhratach orthu ar an lá speisialta sin.



2nd Year Wood Technology Projects

Well done to our 2nd Year Wood Technology group who recently finished up their Footstool projects just in time for the summer holidays.



Ceardlann drumadóireachta

Bhí lá iontach ag an gcéad bhliain nuair a ghlac siad páirt i “Lá Mór na Gaeilge” - a d’eagraigh Oifigeach Pleanála Acla, Caitríona Ní Thiarnáin, do na scoileanna áitiúla. Bhain na scoláirí an-taitneamh as an gceardlann drumadóireachta. Míle buíochas a Chaitríona. Beatha Teanga í a labhairt!!



Sport in CPA



National U19 Heavyweight Boxing Champion

Comhghairdeas mór to our 5th year student Frank Kirwan, who became the National U19 Heavyweight Boxing Champion in May - an incredible achievement made even more memorable as it happened on his 18th birthday. Frank has since been selected to represent Ireland at the Under 19 Four Nations Championships in Scotland next June. This brilliant result is a reflection of the dedication, discipline and hard work Frank has put into his training with Geesala Boxing Club.

Mayo GAA U15 Development squad

Well done to Aiden McDonnell and Teddy McNamara who were part of the Mayo U15 team that played against Cork earlier this year. Both lads have been selected to train as part of the development panel. Best of luck to them both



Kennedy Cup Call ups!

Congratulations to Richard Fitzgerald and Odhran Daly on their selection for the Mayo Soccer Squad ahead of the upcoming Kennedy Cup in June. The Kennedy Cup is the premier youth football tournament in Ireland. Good luck to both boys. Thank you also to former student Joe Murray for facilitating a soccer training session with Junior and Senior girls in May. Joe has a wealth of experience at underage soccer with Mayo FC and the Irish national teams. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the sessions in the sunshine!



Connacht Schools U15 Golf Competition

Well done to Richard Fitzgerald, Donnacha English McNamara, and Joseph Lyons, who represented Coláiste Pobail Acla in the Connacht Schools U15 Golf competition this term, at Castlebar Golf Club.

Donnacha finished the 9 hole competition with 19 points to finish 6th out of 100 competitors. Well done lads!



ETB Sports Day.

There was great participation across a variety of events at the ETB Sports Day in Ballina. Students competed in the long jump, high jump, javelin, shot putt, the 100m and 400m sprints, and of course the very popular tug of war!

A huge congratulations to our gold medal winners:

Anastasiia Hrebennykova - Long Jump
Conor McGinty - Long Jump
Donnacha English-McNamara - 400m
Maxim Polak - 100m



Sport in CPA



MSLETB GAA Blitz's

This term we fielded several GAA teams at all age groups for both boys and girls. Our girls team took part in our annual MSLETB Ladies Football Blitz. A huge thank you to Coláiste Iascaigh, St. Patrick's College Lacken Cross and St. Tiernan's College Crossmolina for participating. Despite the mixed weather conditions, the day was filled with excellent football and outstanding performances from all teams throughout the tournament. A special word of thanks to Kiltane GAA Club for the use of their excellent facilities. Congratulations also to all students, both past and present, who were part of the Achill ladies recent league final success at the Centre of Excellence in Began.

Our 1st & 2nd year boys gave a great account of themselves at an ETB blitz in Castlebar. The boys won 5 out of 5 games against teams from Lacken, Tourmakeady, Davitt College, Foxford, and Swinford. Well done all!



Connacht Cross Country

Well done to Conor McGinty, Briain Daly, Joey Hanley and Matthew Maloney - who represented CPA at the Connacht Cross Country Finals in Loughrea earlier this year. A special mention to Briain Daly, who finished an outstanding 6th overall in the Intermediate Boys race and qualified for the All-Ireland Schools Cross Country Championships. Briain also came 2nd in the Connacht Schools Steeplechase intermediate boys 1500m recently.



Mayo League Team of the Year

Congratulations to Harry Callaghan, TY, on being selected in the Mayo League U-17 Division Three Team of the Year 2025. Harry finished top scorer with 23 goals and was a Player of the Year nominee. Well done also to Callum McDonnell and Joe Cooney who were named on the Mayo League 18 Division Two Team of the Year 2025, with Joe finishing as top scorer and being nominated for Player of the Year. All three have been on the scoresheet for the Achill Rovers Junior Men's team this season with Callum recently scoring back to back hat-tricks and is among the top scorers in the league to date. Well done lads!

MAYO FOOTBALL LEAGUE
MARTIN KEANE U17 DIVISION THREE
OFFICIAL TEAM OF THE YEAR 2025

FINN O'MALLEY WESTPORT UNITED B	HUGE MARQUES BALLYHAUNIS TOWN	NIKODEN ZBOROWSKI BALLYHAUNIS TOWN	ISAAC GREALLY BALLYHAUNIS TOWN	JACK COLLINS WESTPORT UNITED B
FINN MORTON BALLYHAUNIS TOWN	JAI WILSON BALLINA TOWN B	JOSHUA MAUGHAN BALLYHAUNIS TOWN	JAMES DUFFY STRAIDE & FOXFORD UTD	NOAH HERATY WESTPORT UNITED B
AIDEN DEMPSEY SNUGBORO UNITED	BRODIE DONNELLY BALLINA TOWN B	HARRY CALLAGHAN ACHILL ROVERS		

MAYO FOOTBALL LEAGUE
HELEN JOHNSON U18 DIVISION TWO
OFFICIAL TEAM OF THE YEAR 2025

ZACK LALLY KILLALA	EAMONN KELLY KILLALA	DONAL KEANE BALLYGLASS	KEELAN O'NEILL BALLYVARY BB
GAVIN WALSH KILLALA	CALLUM MCDONNELL ACHILL ROVERS	JOE COONEY ACHILL ROVERS	FINN ROCHE KILLALA

Woodturners Group

Well done to the members of the Woodturners Group who recently completed a workshop with famous Irish woodturner Willie Creighton.



Bank of Ireland Build a Bank

Our TY students were busy when running our Build a Bank initiative in partnership with Bank of Ireland! They did a brilliant job helping students get set up with their bank account. It was great to see such teamwork and leadership in action.



JCSP Competition

Earlier this term, Junior students from First to Third Year won 1st Place for their St Bridget's Day Podcast in the JCSP Celebrating Culture and Heritage Competition.

The podcast included music and poetry celebrating the legacy of St Bridget. Well done to all involved



Achill RNLi lifeboat station

Our Transition year students visited the Achill RNLi lifeboat station in Kildownet. They learned about the importance of water safety, explored the equipment used in rescues, and gained insight into the vital work carried out by the lifeboat crew. It was an engaging and educational experience that highlighted the dedication and commitment required to keep our coastal community safe

Girls' Health Workshop

On Wednesday, 13 May, Doreen Dempsey facilitated a Girls' Health Workshop with our Senior Girls, focussing on the best ways to look after their physical and mental health. Amongst many of the interesting and informative topics discussed were the long-term benefits of proper sleep, nutrition, exercise, kindness and positive self-talk.



International Students

Our cohort of international students have played a positive role throughout our school year. They enriched the school and local community by sharing diverse cultural perspectives. They strengthened language learning across classrooms through daily interaction. They enhanced collaborative learning by contributing new ideas and problem-solving approaches and were of great help to our teachers throughout the year. A special mention goes to Reata Atnip and Thea Thormaehlen, both 5th Year. Reata was of great assistance to our TY students in their preparation ahead of their TY Musical.

Thea recently secured 1st place in the Triple Jump at the Connacht Athletics Final and has now progressed to the All-Ireland Schools Track & Field Championships later this month! A super achievement!

For anybody interested in becoming a paid host for international students next year, please contact the school directly.



JCSP Clean Coasts trip to Keel Beach

Our First Year students recently enjoyed a fantastic JCSP field trip to Keel Beach. In collaboration with Clean Coasts, the students took part in a very worthwhile beach clean-up, helping to protect and preserve our local environment.

This hands-on experience allowed the students to see first-hand the impact of litter on coastal ecosystems and the importance of caring for our natural surroundings.

They worked enthusiastically as a team and made a real difference to the beach on the day.

After all their hard work, the group had time to relax, take in the stunning scenery, and enjoy a well-earned ice cream – the perfect end to a lovely day out!

Well done to all involved for their positive attitude and great efforts throughout the trip!



5th Year Construction Studies

5th year Construction Studies visited the MSLETB Energy Build Centre of Excellence in Collooney, Sligo earlier this term. The students completed an excellent Nearly Zero Energy Building & Retrofitting workshop.



Socolab visit

Students from Coláiste Pobail Acla visited the SocoLab innovation hub in Strandhill. They were among the first students in the country to visit this new state of the art facility.

This centre hosts the MSLETB XRHub Sligo initiative. It provides a dedicated space for students to engage with immersive technologies, including Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), and Mixed Reality, while exploring opportunities in digital innovation.



Leaving Cert Surf session with Achill Outdoor Education Centre

Our Leaving Cert students had a brilliant morning in Keel recently. They marked the end of their practical assessments with a surf session on the beach as the final stretch towards the Leaving Cert exams begins.

The group were exceptionally well looked after by the team in the Achill Outdoor Education Centre, who gave the students a fantastic surfing experience and a really memorable morning together after all their hard work over the past few months.

Míle buíochas also to Paul at Sabhna Wild Atlantic Saunas, who welcomed the students in afterwards for some much-needed warmth, with hot chocolate and treats afterwards back at the Outdoor Education Centre.

It was a lovely way to mark the end of the practical side of exams for a truly exceptional group of students. The positivity and camaraderie among them all day summed up everything that has made this year group so special.

Go n-éirí go geal libh in the weeks ahead.



End of Year Awards 2026

Overall Student Awards

Junior Student of the Year:

Aisling Connaghan

Senior Student of the Year:

Matthew McGreal



Attendance Awards

Best Attendance (Junior):

Sorcha Cooney, Donnacha English
McNamara, Órna Gallagher, Ava
Gardiner,

Conor McGinty, Laura McGreal

Best Attendance (Senior):

Matthew McGreal



Creative & Performing Arts Awards

Virtuoso (Artist):

Meg Healy-Reeves

Junior Artist of the Year:

Aoife Corrigan

Music Maestro (Junior) :

Anam Khan

Music Maestro (Senior):

Cathal Cooney

The Oscar (Musical):

Ewan Gallagher

Languages & Humanities

Gaeilgeoir Award (Junior):

Aisling Connaghan

Gaeilgeoir Award (Senior):

Scarlett Ní Chaoímh

Gradam John "Twin":

Orla Nic Conmara

Linguist of the Year (Junior – French):

Aine Cooney

Linguist of the Year (Senior – French):

Niamh O'Boyle

Joe McGinty History Award:

Sadhbh Sims

Practical, Science & STEM Awards

Environmentalist of the Year:

Conor Kilbane

Master Craftsman (Wood Technology – Junior):

Cathal Cafferkey

Einstein Award (Science):

Mike Gallagher Offen

Junior Scientist of the Year:

Aisling Connaghan

Junior Engineer of the Year:

Anam Khan

Luca Callaghan Senior Engineer of the Year:

Muireann McHugh

JCSP Awards:

Ms. Duffy's 2nd Year Music class

Sports & Wellbeing Awards

Junior Sports Star:

Austeja Pavlaviciute

Junior Sports Star:

Rhys Callaghan

Senior Sports Star:

Brandyn McNea

Community, Leadership & Special Contribution

Extra-Curricular Award:

Thea Thormaehlen

Consistent Effort and Enthusiasm Award:

Matthew Moloney

Meitheal Award:

Shane Gallagher & Tiernan Moyles

Business Award (Senior):

Matthew McGreal