

Holy Family Community School, Rathcoole

An Tánaiste Micheál Martin visits HFCS

We were delighted to welcome An Tánaiste Micheál Martin to our school recently. He met with Ms Fallon to discuss our new school building. He was very supportive of our need for a new school, and we hope to see progress in the coming months.



Matilda, The Musical!

We recently held our first musical since 2017 – Matilda, The Musical! Months of preparation went into this musical, with the cast rehearsing every single week since the beginning of the academic year. Over 400 people attended the musical, which took place in our sports hall, across three nights. The cast wowed and delighted everyone who visited, from the youngest at 4 years old, to the oldest at 90! The cast are listed below, but none of it would have been possible without the support of the wonderful backstage crew, and the two teachers who put it all together – Ms Ring and Ms Redmond.



It was a wonderful display of the extraordinary talents and abilities that students have, and it personified what it means to be a part of the school community. Thank you to everyone who supported our musical, it is much appreciated!



Matilda – Aimee Adams

Miss Honey – Amie Byrne

Ms Trunchbull – Amanda Hendricken

Rudolfo – Charlie Byrne

Mr Wormwood – Travis Boggans Moore

Mrs Wormwood – Sophie McDonough

Michael Wormwood – Daniel Olatunji

Bruce Bogtrotter – Daniel Southern

Mrs Phelps – Kamile Aladinaite

Lavender – Katie Nolan

Nigella – Lacey Moran

Classmates: Scott McGuirk, Katherine Mathew, Amy Ryan, Lucy Ryan, Shauna Darcy, Neasa McMenemy, Hannah Knop, Sibéal Graham, Ava Peggs, Michaela Koulafas.



Transition Year:

Transition Year students have been extremely busy this academic year.

They have undertaken a wide range of projects, workshops, and educational trips. These include programmes such as the Bridge To College programme, Localise Community Youth Project, work experience, STEM Passport for Inclusion. They have also participated in, and will participate in, many workshops that will teach them skills for life, for example a barista workshop, a first aid course, a forensics workshop, GAA Future Leaders Programme, Gaisce hike, the works! TY students will also have a trip to Coláiste Acla, Achill Island, where they will participate in a wide range of outdoor activities through the medium of Irish and English!

A group of Transition Year students are also taking part in the Bridge to College programme, run by Trinity Access, which is a course aimed to show students what college life is like. As part of this course they were tasked with the project of informing students all about Sustainability development across a number of domains. Our TYs have plenty planned, with their first project being a staff and student Sleep Out, to raise awareness of social issues amongst our school community. Follow their project @ hfcsbridge2college24.

International Trips:

A large group of TY students travelled to Lavarone, Italy, at the end of January. Here, they took to the slopes and had a wonderful time learning the new skill of skiing and snow tubing! Well done to all students for the effort they put in. They worked hard adjusting to the skis in the first few days and their resilience paid off, as they were able to explore new and more challenging slopes in the latter part of the week.

Our 5th Year students will travel to beautiful Barcelona during the Easter holidays. While there, they will visit all of the beautiful sights of Barcelona over the course of 4 days. We wish them the very best of luck with the trip, and we can't wait to hear all about it!



Sports:

There is a wide range of sports for students to participate in, in HFCS. Most recently, 6th Year student Cormac Dixon, and 3rd Year student Jacob Ciomek, competed in the Leinster Schools Cross-Country finals, with Cormac taking gold, and Jacob finishing 4th! Both students then progressed to the All-Ireland Finals, where Cormac became the All-Ireland Cross Country champion, in his final cross-country race for our school.



Jacob finished in 12th position in the Intermediate Boys – a category a year above his age! We are so proud of both of them.

Our U17 Boys' soccer team won the Dublin West Final, following a thrilling game! They now progress to the Leinster stages.



We have a huge number of camogie, hurling, basketball, and Gaelic football teams as well. Most recently, our 1st Year Girls' Basketball team have topped their pool with an unbeaten 4-0 record, progressing to the Eastern region quarter finals, while our 2nd Year Boys' Basketball team have won 3 of their 4 group stage games.

Our U14 Camogie team are going from strength to strength, with a recent 4-4 to 1-0 win against Edmund Rice College, and our 1st Year Girls' Soccer team have just won their regional quarter final as well.



So many of our students participate in the many sports on offer in HFCS, giving it their all. They are wonderful representatives of the school, and we are so proud of their achievements.



Concern Worldwide:

Our school recently welcomed Ms. Joanne Arnold from Concern Worldwide to present to her our cheque for €9,451, which was raised by our whole school community in our first term. We were delighted to present to her this fantastic amount which we are very proud of. This was a whole-school effort with students across every year group and staff raising money through participation in a wide range of activities. These activities included a Fast From Technology, Christmas competitions, staff and student raffles, church gate collections, and many more! Our Concern fundraiser is an annual event in our school, and we are very proud of the effort our school community goes to!



IMTA Team Maths Quiz

A group of 14 5th and 6th year students recently took part in the IMTA Team Maths Quiz in Gonzaga College. It was a fantastic day in which our students took on challenging maths problems, working together to solve them. Over 200 students participated, and our school team finished in 7th place! Well done to them all for their efforts, as always we are very proud of them.



Leaving Cert Art:

Our 5th and 6th year Art students have had a busy term, with trips and guest speakers to inspire them in their projects. Local artist Geoff Tracy visited HCS, speaking to students about his work. He also gave them a lot of advice and guidance for the work they are doing on their own mural. The theme of the mural is 'Resilience', and we can't wait to unveil it!



Our 5th year group also had an interview morning with members of the local Retired Active Mens Social (RAMS) group. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to gain an insight into what the local villages and buildings of interest were like from the 1950s until the present day.

In the meantime, our 6th Year students visited the National Gallery of Ireland, which again inspired them in their Leaving Cert projects.



Teaching and Learning Committee:

Our staff contribute to and participate in our Teaching and Learning Committee. There have been a number of meetings held so far this year. Teachers present on topics that have benefitted them in the classroom, which they feel would be of benefit to colleagues as well. It is a wonderful opportunity to promote collaboration amongst our staff, and it greatly enriches the teaching and learning environment in our school. Some of the topics presented on this year include; *'Music outside Music'*, *'Literacy'*, *'Voter Registration and Awareness Campaign'*, *'Student Ownership of Tracking Assessments'*, *'Exploring the Opportunities to Bring Cultural History Into School, and 'Expanding the Flipped Classroom – The Personal Touch'*.

Social Media:

Stay up to date with all of the wonderful things happening in HFCS, by following us on social media! We are on Instagram and Twitter - @hfcsrathcoole.



Happy Easter!

We'd like to wish a joyous Easter to all in the local community!

