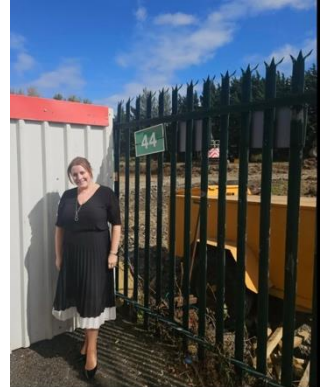


Holy Family Community School, Rathcoole

New School Building

We are thrilled that the long-awaited building work for our new school building has commenced. Our school campus currently looks very different, with several recreational areas blocked off to allow building works to be completed. This is a very exciting time for our school, and we would like to thank everyone for their support of our campaign for a new building over the last number of years. We really look forward to seeing this project progress.



Leaving Cert & LCA Class of 2024 High Achievers

We were delighted to welcome back to school, the students from the Leaving Cert & Leaving Cert Applied Class of 2024 who achieved over 600 points, or a Distinction, in their exams! It was wonderful to be able to welcome them back, and discuss what the future holds for them!

With such a varied range of courses and plans, we wish them the very best of luck in their next chapter!

Abigail
B.Commerce
(UCD)

Jack
Film & Broadcasting
(TUD)

Mintija
Chemical Sciences
(DCU)

Chloe
English
(UCD)

Sumsoar
Business & German
(TCD)

Seán
Law & Business
(UCD)

Oscar
Engineering
(UCD)

Alanna
Primary Teaching
(DCU)

Mily
Biomedical Science
(NUIG)

David
Computer Science
(TCD)

Emma
English & Classics
(UCD)

Áine
Beauty Therapy
(Crumlin)

Brooke
Beauty Therapy

Aishah
BESS
(TCD)

Zoyad
Social Science
(UCD)

Viktorija
Genetics
(UCD)

Missing from Photo: Jessica Nbadia
(Employment)

Leaving Certificate & Leaving Certificate Applied High Achievers 2024

Farewell, Sr Anne!

We recently bade a fond farewell to Sr. Anne. Sr. Anne served on the HFCS Board of Management for over 20 years. She was integral to the appointment of hundreds of staff during that time, as well as being involved in the many changes and evolving needs of our school, from blackboards to whiteboards to Apple TV!

We are very grateful and appreciative of Sr. Anne's work, and on behalf of everyone in HFCS, we wish her the very best in her retirement.



Culture Week

In September, we celebrated Culture Week in HFCS. We had a Global Village event, with over 30 stalls celebrating almost 40 cultures from around the world. Students wore traditional dress, prepared traditional meals, and provided a huge amount of information about their families' heritage. It was a wonderful event, enjoyed by all who attended!



Mentors

Our 6th Year mentors have proven to be an invaluable part of the school community yet again this term. Being a mentor is a very responsible and rewarding role in the school. The mentors engaged in training with Ms. Ryan-Clarke at the beginning of the year. They support First Year students in the transition into post-primary school. They organised a mini Olympics event, which was a brilliant success and thoroughly enjoyed by all the First-Year students.



The School Self-Evaluation Student Committee: Empowering Student Voices

The School Self-Evaluation (SSE) Student Committee ensures students have a say in shaping their learning environment. Made up of student representatives from various year groups, the committee collaborates with staff to evaluate key areas such as teaching and learning, well-being, and school policies.



This initiative empowers students and helps foster a school community where everyone can thrive.



Celebrating Science Week 2024

Science Week 2024 was a fantastic celebration of curiosity, innovation, and discovery. Students across all year groups enjoyed engaging activities, including fun experiments that brought science to life. A number of activities took place throughout the week including a photography competition a science quiz and online talks from professionals working in STEM.



A major highlight was an online careers chat hosted by Microsoft Dream Space and ESERO, with guest speakers Bas Stijnen and Jemima O'Farrell. They explored exciting opportunities in the Irish space sector, highlighting Ireland's growing role in European space projects and careers in space science and technology.

Adding to the excitement, we were delighted to welcome back our past pupil and TV celebrity Darragh Ennis from "The Chase". Darragh gave an engaging talk to senior science students, sharing his career journey from school to science and television, offering valuable advice on pursuing passions and embracing diverse opportunities.



Transition Year

Transition Year has been action-packed for all students. They have taken part in a wide range of activities, workshops, and events, such as a trip to Liliput Adventure Centre, Zipit High Wire Experience, and the Croke Park Museum and Stadium tour. They have engaged in a wide variety of workshops, ranging from drumming skills to school of life, SFX makeup to personal safety, and a little bit of juggling with quadratics thrown into the mix.

Students have engaged in volunteer work in the community, taking part in the Localise Youth Volunteering Project. TY students have also volunteered their time for a bucket collection in aid of Concern Worldwide.



TY students have just finished their first two-week block of work experience. Students worked in a wide variety of businesses, services, both local and beyond.

There is an action-packed year ahead for our TY students, and we are particularly looking forward to the annual ski trip, which takes place in the new year.



Alliance Française Visits

We were delighted to welcome the Alliance Française to our school recently. A group of 30 teachers joined us for a tour of the school, gaining valuable insight into the Irish second-level education system. The visit was a wonderful opportunity to share experiences, strengthen connections, and celebrate our shared commitment to education.

Merci beaucoup à tous qui sont venus. We look forward to future collaboration.



College Awareness Week

College Awareness Week (CAW) is all about inspiring students to think about their futures and explore the many pathways to further education and careers. Our 5th Year CAW team celebrated the week by showcasing our very own role models, our teachers, who shared their diverse college experiences, inspiring students to dream big and plan for their futures.

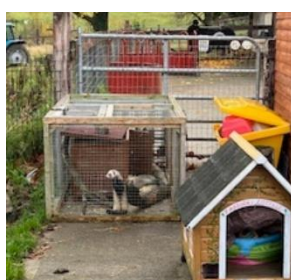
As part of the week, some students also completed their SOLAS Safe Pass Health and Safety Awareness training, thanks to the Construction Industry Federation, gaining valuable certification for careers in the construction sector.

A big thank you to everyone who made College Awareness Week a success.



LCA1 Trip to the DSPCA.

LCA 1 students visited the DSPCA, Rathfarnham as part of their Vocational Preparation and Guidance course. Before the trip took place students donated money and asked the school community for supplies to bring along with them. Students donated pet toys, food, and bedding.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Our extra-curricular activities are as popular as ever, with a wide range of sports included.

A huge thank you to past pupils, Sean Ryan of SR Coaching, and Joseph Lyons of the Supplement HQ, who have sponsored our Girls Soccer Jerseys. They came to our school to meet the girls' soccer team and to present the jerseys. We are always so appreciative of the support from our local community.



STEM Passport for Inclusion

The STEM Passport for Inclusion is an innovative programme designed to empower girls by providing them with the tools, skills, and inspiration to pursue opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Organized by Maynooth University in partnership with Microsoft Dream Space, it aims to bridge the gender gap in STEM by offering hands-on workshops, mentoring sessions, and access to industry insights.

This year, Transition Year students from our school are proud to participate once again, gaining valuable experience and the confidence to excel in STEM fields.

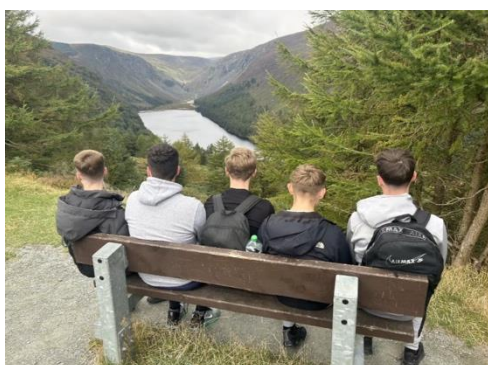


Senior Cycle Students

Our 6th Year students have had a busy first term. They have benefited from both a Biology Ecology study in Lullymore, and Geography field study. They also went to see the Irish drama 'An Triail'. Music students had a great day at the National Concert Hall in Dublin City Centre, where they got to hear an amazing live performance of one of their set pieces from the Leaving Certificate Music course.

There have been many careers-related talks held, and trips to various university open days. We hope that exposure to such a wide range of options for their futures will inspire them in their decisions for the next chapter of their lives.

Our 5th Year students took part in a retreat to Glendalough back in September. It was a perfect opportunity for students to take a break from the busyness of day-to-day school life, with a hike around stunning Glendalough.



November Remembrance Wall

A group of students have created a beautiful, respectful, November Remembrance Wall, to remember deceased family members, and staff. It is in our oratory, and it is a lovely area to sit, reflect and remember our loved ones.



Stand-Up Awareness Week

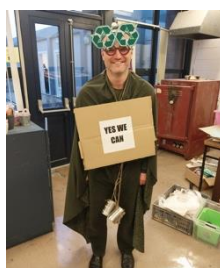
We recently held a very successful Stand-Up Awareness Week, standing together against homophobic, biphobic, and transphobic bullying. Events were held throughout the week, including a bake sale for all students. We continue to support our LGBTI+ students in a safe, inclusive environment.



Sustainability Drive

Our school is proud to announce several sustainability initiatives led by our Green Schools Committee. This year, they have successfully organized an e-waste recycling drive, to collect any broken electronic devices from different departments in the school to be recycled. Mr Weldon is running a fantastic Can and Bottle Collection initiative, to encourage staff and students to bring in any cans and bottles to be recycled.

Additionally, our Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme includes a hands-on module where students work with our school's poly-tunnel, integrating sustainable agriculture practices. Alongside these environmental efforts, the Student Council are conducting a charity drive to support local causes including Saoirse Domestic Violence Services, showcasing our community's commitment to both sustainability and generosity. Together, these initiatives highlight our collective effort to make a positive impact on our environment and society.



HFCS Social Media:

HFCS is on Instagram and X. Follow us on social media @hfcsrathcoole, for regular updates on all the great activities happening in our school.

