

## Holy Family Community School - News Update Spring 2025

### STEM Passport for Inclusion Graduation at Maynooth University.

Our recent graduation ceremony at Maynooth University was a proud and inspiring event. Our school received the *Outstanding School Engagement Award* from Professor Katriona O'Sullivan, recognizing our commitment to supporting young women in STEM. This award celebrates our school's outstanding achievement in delivering programs that improve student engagement, inclusion, and learning outcomes in STEM.



Professor O'Sullivan, a strong advocate for educational inclusion, has been pivotal in creating STEM opportunities for all students. Her recognition of our efforts underscores the impact of our initiatives in fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.



A highlight of the day was an inspirational speech by Ava Kenny, a past pupil and STEM Passport graduate. Ava shared her journey from our classrooms of HFCS to studying science at Maynooth University, encouraging our graduates with her story of determination and passion.

This achievement marks a significant milestone for our school, which has been part of the STEM Passport for Inclusion programme since 2021. We currently have 66 dedicated girls in the programme, set to graduate next year. Their journey has been inspiring, and we look forward to the positive changes they will bring to their communities.

Congratulations to the 33 students on their success! We are excited to see them make their mark in the world of STEM.



## Student Awards

We are proud to acknowledge the hard work and achievements of our students who were recently nominated by their teachers and tutors for various awards. These students, from all year groups, have shown exceptional dedication and effort in their studies and extra-curricular activities during term one.

Their success is a testament to the hard work and determination they have invested. Whether it's excelling in academics, sports, arts, or school spirit, they have shown what is possible through dedication and passion.

As we move into the next term, we encourage all students to continue striving for excellence. Keep pushing your boundaries, stay curious, and never stop learning. Remember, every challenge you face is an opportunity to grow and achieve even greater things.

Congratulations to all our award recipients! We look forward to seeing all the amazing things you will accomplish in the future.





## **A Magical Success: Mary Poppins Wows Audiences**

Following the incredible success of last year's Matilda, our school's production of Mary Poppins was nothing short of spectacular. Over three nights, students from all year groups took to the stage, captivating audiences of all ages with their extraordinary talent, energy, and enthusiasm.



From the outstanding performances of the cast to the seamless work of the backstage crew, every student involved played a vital role in bringing this production to life. The sense of community spirit was truly evident, with students, staff, and families coming together to create an unforgettable experience.

A huge thank you to all staff members and the Parents' Council, whose support and dedication ensured the event was well-organised and enjoyable for everyone who attended.

A special thank you to Ms. Ring and Ms. Redmond, whose passion and commitment made this unforgettable show possible.



Mary Poppins was a resounding success, and we can't wait to see what next year's production has in store.



## **Fundraising and the Community.**

Our school and community recently came together to raise an impressive €8500 for Concern Worldwide. This incredible achievement was made possible through various activities, including church collections, a sponsored fast from technology, and a raffle event.



Additionally, the Student Council organized several events to support Saoirse Domestic Violence Services. They held a non-uniform day and set up a collection point in the school for staff and students to donate clothes, toiletries, and toys. This initiative was also a great success, raising €500 in vouchers and €750 in funds to donate.

As part of the Localise Youth Volunteering Programme, TY 1 held a bake sale and raised €220 for Peamount Hospital. With the money raised, students bought presents for staff and residents. They also made Christmas cards for all the staff members and went Carol Singing where they visited some of the residents.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the students, staff, and community members who participated and contributed. Your generosity and dedication have made a significant impact, and we are truly grateful for your support.

Together, we have shown the power of community spirit and the difference we can make when we work together for a good cause. Thank you once again for your kindness and generosity.



## **Transition Year:**

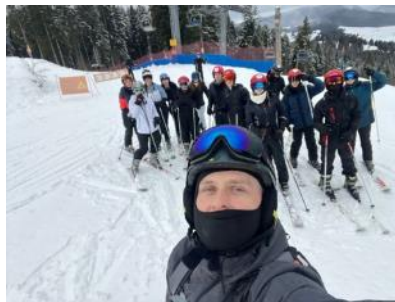
Transition Year students have been extremely busy this academic year.

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, and the 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 at showing 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 several domains.



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.



## **Leaving Certificate Applied.**

The LCA 1 class are running the HFCS tuck shop as part of their enterprise module. They have run it weekly to provide sweets, crisps and drinks to students. This has been a roaring success and a great opportunity for students to see how a business is set up and run over time. WELL DONE LCA 1 class and thanks to Mr. Maher, Ms. O'Brien, Ms. Finn, Ms. Dolan & Ms. Watson for the support.





## **Learning Beyond the Classroom: HFCS Trips & Excursions**

Our second-year students had the opportunity to enhance their language skills through trips to Paris, France, and various locations in Germany.

### **Paris, France**

Before midterm, our 2nd year French students became Les Parisiens for the weekend. Students had a fantastic trip, touring the sites and practicing their French. They visited iconic landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, Stade de France, Palace of Versailles, and Disneyland. A boat trip down the Seine allowed them to take in the beautiful sights of le beau Paris. It was a brilliant weekend with wonderful students, and it was certainly a trip to remember.



### **Munich, Germany**

Our 2nd students studying German embarked on an unforgettable trip to Munich, Germany. The jam-packed itinerary began with a coach tour of Munich, allowing students to soak in the city's rich history and vibrant culture. The first day continued with visits to the Deutsches Museum, where they explored ground-breaking scientific exhibits, and the BMW Museum, marvelling at the evolution of automotive engineering. On the second day, students enjoyed a guided tour of the iconic Olympic Stadium, learning about its history and significance in the world of sports, followed by a fun-filled trip to Galaxy Erding waterpark. The third day featured a visit to the FC Bayern Munich Arena, home

to one of the most successful football clubs in the world, and a trip to the fairy-tale Neuschwanstein Castle, captivating everyone with its stunning architecture and picturesque surroundings. The final day of the tour included a fascinating tour of the Salt Mine Berchtesgaden, where students learned about the mining process and its historical importance, and a visit to Salzburg, Austria, experiencing the charm of this beautiful city before flying back to Dublin. The trip was a resounding success, providing students with a wealth of knowledge and unforgettable memories.



### 5th Year Students Embrace the Outdoors at Killary Adventure Centre

This term, our 5th year students embarked on an exhilarating trip to Killary Adventure Centre in Leenane, Galway. This adventure-filled excursion was an integral part of the Leaving Certificate Physical Education (PE) course, covering the outdoor and adventure strands.

During their stay, students participated in activities such as kayaking, rock climbing, orienteering, and high ropes courses. These activities challenged their physical and mental limits, fostering teamwork, problem-solving skills, and resilience.

The trip was a comprehensive educational experience, aligning with the PE curriculum and promoting personal growth. Students returned with enhanced physical skills and valuable life lessons in teamwork and resilience.



The **5th year Physics** class had a very informative trip to the Institute of Physics' Tyndall Lecture 2025 hosted by Trinity College Dublin. The guest speaker was Dr. Ciara Nellist, Particle Physicist at CERN. The students gained valuable insights into the work of CERN and got the opportunity to ask lots of questions about the life of a particle physicist.



Our **6th Year Art** students visited the National Archaeology Museum to explore pre-Christian artefacts. The ancient jewellery, pottery, and tools they studied provided unique insights and sparked creativity, offering fresh perspectives for their Leaving Certificate Art projects.



### **Try a Trade Day with Irish Rail**

At the beginning of March, some of our 6th Year students attended Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail's Try a Trade event at the Apprentice Training Centre in Inchicore Railway Works. This hands-on experience introduced them to skilled trades such as: Heavy Vehicle Mechanics, Electrical Work, Fitting and OEM Engineering Technology. The event provided a valuable insight into apprenticeship opportunities, allowing students to try out practical skills in an interactive setting. It was a fantastic experience for those considering a trade career, and we look forward to more opportunities like this in the future.



### **Senior Cycle Speed Subject Event**

In January, HFCS hosted a highly successful information event for 3rd year and Transition Year students. The event provided a unique opportunity for these students to engage with 5th year students about their subject choices for the Leaving Certificate.

Throughout the day, 3rd and Transition Year students had the chance to ask questions and gather valuable insights from their senior peers. The 5th year students shared their experiences and offered first-hand advice on various subjects, helping the younger students make more informed decisions about their future studies.

The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive. Many students found the event incredibly informative and appreciated the opportunity to hear directly from those currently studying the subjects they are considering. This peer-to-peer interaction not only provided practical advice but also helped to alleviate some of the anxieties associated with choosing Leaving Certificate subjects.

Overall, the event was a great success, fostering a supportive and collaborative school environment. We look forward to organising similar events in the future to continue supporting our students in their academic journeys.







## **A Fantastic Term for School Sports.**

This term has been an action-packed one for our extracurricular sports teams, with students demonstrating incredible dedication and teamwork across a variety of disciplines. From basketball and camogie to soccer, Gaelic football, and rugby, our students have put in a tremendous effort in both training and competition.

Among the many achievements this term, our camogie team was crowned Dublin Camogie Colleges Champions after a hard-fought 2-11 to 1-12 victory over Santa Maria College. The Senior Girls GAA team had a strong season, making it to the quarter-finals, while in basketball, both our 1st and 2nd Year boys' teams reached the semi-finals, with the 1st Years going on to claim the East Regional title. Our U15 Boys Soccer team also had a fantastic result, securing their place in the Dublin Division 1 quarter-finals with an impressive 5-2 win over Beneavin Finglas.



These are just some of the highlights of a hugely successful sporting term, and we commend all students for their commitment and determination in training and competition. A special thank you to all the coaches for their time, support, and motivation—your dedication makes these achievements possible!



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.



**Happy Easter!**

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