

Holy Family Community School - News Update Summer 2025

A New Chapter Begins: HFCS Building Update

As we approach the end of another school year, one of the most exciting developments is the progress of our new school building—and it's truly beginning to take shape. What was once just a vision on paper is now becoming a reality, with visible progress being made every day.



We're delighted to share that Phase One is set to open this September, marking a major milestone for HFCS. While we await confirmation of the final handover date, the excitement among students and staff is growing.

This move represents more than just new facilities—it's the start of a new chapter for our school. At the same time, it will mean saying goodbye to parts of the existing building that have served us well over the years.

We look forward to sharing more updates as we prepare for this important transition. Thank you to everyone for your continued support as we move into the future together.

Congratulations on Junior Cycle Achievements

We would like to extend our warmest congratulations to our Transition Year and 5th Year students who recently received their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA). The JCPA recognises not only students' academic achievements in their Junior Certificate exams but also their engagement in key skills, classroom-based assessments, and other learning experiences throughout the Junior Cycle.



It is a well-deserved recognition of the hard work, dedication, and growth shown by our students over their three-year journey. We are very proud of all they have accomplished and look forward to seeing them continue to thrive in their senior cycle years.



Junior Cycle Highlights: A Busy and Bright Term

As the school year draws to a close, our Junior Cycle students have much to be proud of after a term full of learning, fun, and achievement.

Our First Year students enjoyed a lively Fun Day before Easter, organised by their dedicated Mentors. It was a great opportunity to strengthen friendships and celebrate the progress made in their first year at HFCS. They now have their sights set on a well-deserved end-of-year trip to Tayto Park, which promises to be a memorable day out.



We would also like to commend both First and Second Year students on their enthusiastic participation in Seachtain na Gaeilge. Their involvement in various events and activities helped to promote the Irish language and celebrate our rich cultural heritage in a fun and inclusive way. Of course, a big well done is also due to all First and Second Year students for completing their end-of-term exams. Their focus and effort throughout the year have been outstanding.

Meanwhile, our Third Year students took learning outside the classroom with a Science trip to Dublin Zoo as part of their Ecology field study. It was an exciting and educational day, blending science with creativity. Students also took part in a photography competition, capturing some truly stunning images of the animals and the natural surroundings. The quality of entries was fantastic and showed a great eye for detail and composition.



Well done to all our Junior students for their engagement, enthusiasm, and effort this term. We look forward to seeing what they'll achieve next!

Transition Year: A Fitting Finale to a Fantastic Year

Our Transition Year students brought their exceptional year to a close with a packed final term, filled with engaging activities, personal growth, and memorable experiences. This term truly reflected the spirit of TY at HFCS—hands-on learning, community involvement, and student-led achievement.

Throughout the term, students took part in a variety of enriching workshops, including a Barista workshop, a fitness and nutrition session, a hair care workshop, and even a lively Zumba class in support of Darkness into Light. These opportunities not only provided practical skills but also promoted well-being and community spirit.



A number of students also participated in the Bridge to College programme, a fantastic initiative supporting students' aspirations for further education. Meanwhile, others showed great leadership and empathy by organising charity events and collections in aid of local and national organisations. A major highlight for many was achieving the Bronze Gaisce Award. This involved months of commitment, culminating in a challenging 25km hike in Glendalough—a rewarding and unforgettable experience.

To celebrate their achievements and the friendships formed over the year, students enjoyed a fun-filled trip to Baysports in Athlone, followed by a TY Graduation Ceremony. Each student received a portfolio of their accomplishments, along with awards recognising the enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication they brought to the year.



We are incredibly proud of our TY students and all they have achieved. We wish them every success as they move forward into 5th Year, ready to build on the confidence and skills developed during their Transition Year journey.



Bua na Cainte ag HFCS!



Ghlac foireann ó Phobalscoil an Teaghlaigh Naofa páirt i gComórtas Díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh Ghael Linn i mbliana agus bhain siad an Chraobh réigiúnach amach. Is é seo an chéad uair a chuir foireann ó HFCS isteach ar an gcomórtas le fada an lá. Roimh bhriseadh na Nollag bhí dhá díospóireacht ag Sophia, April agus Rebecca sa chéad bhabhta ar Zoom.

Bhí na cailíní in aghaidh Meánscoil Muire agus Iosef Salerno ar dtús, agus bhí siad ag argóint ar son an rúin *'Tuigeannt muintir na hÉireann fadhb na haeráide'*. D'éirigh go breá leis na cailíní in ainneoin na fadhbanna teicneolaíochta! Bhí an chéad díospóireacht eile ar siúl in aghaidh Sancta Maria College, Cluain Cearbán agus an uair seo bhí an fhoireann in aghaidh an rúin *'Is cur amú ama í an t-idirbhliain'*.

Tháinig foireann HFCS sa chéad 32 foireann ó bhabhta a haon agus ar aghaidh leo go dtí an chéad bhabhta beo i mí Aibreáin. Tháinig Grace Hughes isteach don bhabhta seo. Chruthaigh na cailíní go maith i Scoil Ospidéal an Rí in aghaidh Meánscoil Iognáid Rís, Naas agus Coláiste Naomh Cormac ó chontae Uibh Fháilí. Bhí na cailíní ag labhairt ar son an rúin *'Is aoibheann beatha an pholaiteora in Éirinn'*. Bhí gach duine ar bís nuair a fógraíodh go raibh HFCS ag dul ar aghaidh go dtí an Chraobh Réigiúnach i mí Bhealtaine agus go raibh siad i measc an 16 foireann is fearr sa tír!

Ócáid mhór a bhí ann san Óstán Green Isle agus thóg na cailíní a lucht tacaíochta leo. Rún chasta a bhí ann agus bhí HFCS ag argóint i bhfabhar an rúin *'Tá ár bhféiniúlacht mar náisiún cailte againn in Éirinn'*. Bhí iomaíocht ghéar ann ó Choláiste Chú Chualainn, Dún Dealgan, Meánscoil Loreto, Baile Bhrigin, agus Scoil Páirc Sandford, Raghmallach.

Ba léir go raibh an- dul chun cinn déanta ag na cailíní agus labhair siad go soiléir, le muinín agus le paisean. Bhí argóintí iontacha ó bhanríon an bhréagnú, Rebecca. An uair seo ní bheadh ach foireann amháin ag dul ar aghaidh agus, faraor, ní raibh an lá le HFCS agus bhí an bua ag Scoil Páirc Sandford, a rachadh ar aghaidh chun Craobh na hÉireann a bhuacaint.



Fuair an fhoireann corn mar chuimhneachán ar an lá agus bhí gach duine i láthair an-bhródúil astu. Taithí iontach a bhí ann a bheidh cuimhní ag na cailíní air go deo. Míle buíochas as an iarracht a chuir na cailíní isteach don chomórtas seo. Guímid ádh mór orthu san Ardteist i mbliana agus sna todhchaíochtaí geala atá rompu!

Senior Cycle News: Leadership, Language, and Looking Ahead

It has been a busy and rewarding term for our Senior Cycle students, marked by leadership, achievement, and forward-thinking.

A major highlight was the Careers Fair, brilliantly organised by our Student Council for 5th Year students. The event brought together parents, staff, and past pupils, who generously gave their time to share insights, advice, and experiences from a wide range of career paths. It was an inspiring and informative day that gave students a valuable glimpse into life beyond school.



We would like to recognise the efforts and achievements of our Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) students this year. Throughout the programme, students have engaged in a broad range of learning experiences, including Vocational Preparation, Social Education, and practical modules such as Agriculture, ICT, and Hotel Catering. They have now successfully completed all of their Key Assignments and modules — a significant milestone that reflects consistent work and steady progress across the year.

As part of their Agricultural module, the students planted and cared for a variety of flowers earlier this year. These are now in full bloom and provide a quiet but clear reminder of the positive contribution they have made to school life.



This term also saw the annual handover of the Student Council leadership, with the outgoing Chairperson and team passing the torch to a new group of student leaders. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the outgoing council for their dedication, creativity, and the positive impact they have made on school life. Your hard work and commitment have left a lasting mark on our school community.



Well done to all involved in making this term such a success!

Celebrating the Class of 2025

As the final term comes to an end, we proudly celebrated the graduation of our 6th Year and Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) students, marking the end of their time at HFCS and the beginning of exciting new journeys ahead.



The celebrations began with a fun-filled trip to Tayto Park, giving students a chance to relax and enjoy time together after a busy year. This was followed by an afternoon of yearbook signing and reflection, as classmates looked back on shared memories and milestones. The day concluded with the much-anticipated annual student-teacher football match, which lived up to its reputation as a tense and entertaining event!

The Graduation Ceremony was a fitting tribute to the Class of 2025. It offered a chance to look back on how far they've come since First Year, and to recognise the many achievements, contributions, and moments of growth that have shaped their time at HFCS. It was an evening filled with pride, gratitude, and hope for the future.



We wish all of our graduating students the very best of luck in their upcoming exams and in whatever path they choose next. We are proud of each and every one of you.



Beo Initiative: Celebrating a Year of Enriched Learning

The Beo Initiative, established in HFCS in 2022, continues to thrive as a key programme designed to enrich the learning, skills, and opportunities of students identified as having a high intellectual ability.

This year, Beo students engaged in a wide variety of stimulating events, competitions, lectures, and workshops, designed to challenge their thinking and broaden their horizons across multiple disciplines. Highlights from the past term include:

- Participation in the All-Ireland Linguistics Olympiad (AILO)
- First Year Mathematics Competition with the Irish Mathematics Teachers' Association (IMTA)
- Guest Lecture on Careers in Science by Professor Darragh Ennis
- IMTA Pi Quiz
- Participation in the 38th Irish Mathematical Olympiad
- Guest Lecture on Military History & Strategic Studies by HFCS teacher Liam O'Sullivan
- Team Maths Competition with the IMTA
- Attendance at the 2025 Tyndall Lecture at Trinity College Dublin, delivered by Dr. Clara Nellist, Particle Physicist at CERN
- Educational Workshop on Graphs and Networks by Nikki Cowzer, HFCS
- A 15-week Chinese Mandarin language course in collaboration with the PPLI
- Guest Lecture on Property Design, Building, and Delivery with Stephen Doyle of the Lydon Group
- The introduction of Leaving Certificate Applied Mathematics as an additional subject offering

These experiences have given students valuable insights into advanced areas of mathematics, science, language, and critical thinking, as well as career pathways and real-world applications of their studies. Planning for the next academic year is already underway, with exciting new opportunities on the horizon. We look forward to another year of challenge, growth, and discovery for all students involved in the Beo Initiative.

Lunchtime Clubs Wrap Up Another Great Year!

This year saw another fantastic run of our lively lunchtime clubs, with students getting involved in everything from Textiles, LEGO, and CAD/3D Drawing to Drama, Dungeons & Dragons Chess, Neurodivergent and Allies Clubs, and sports like Basketball, Badminton, and Volleyball. Well done to all students who took part—we're already looking forward to what next year's clubs will bring!

A sincere thank you to the dedicated teachers and staff who generously gave up their lunch breaks to run these clubs. Your energy and commitment have made a real difference to student wellbeing—nurturing friendships, building confidence, and sparking creativity.

Sporting Success Across the School

It's been a fantastic year for sport at HFCS, with students from 1st to 6th Year showing outstanding commitment, teamwork, and talent across a wide range of disciplines.



Our U14 Girls' GAA team put in a strong performance this season, making it all the way to the semifinals, while the U15 Girls' Soccer team also reached the semifinal stage, narrowly missing out in a close contest.

A special congratulations to our First Year Girls' Soccer team, who were crowned regional champions after a dramatic final won on penalties. Meanwhile, our U19 Girls' Soccer team had an exceptional run, winning the Leinster Regional Final—a major achievement.

The Senior Boys' GAA team also had a strong season, reaching the semifinals after a series of impressive performances. On the court, our First Year Boys' Basketball team brought home the Dublin League title, a fantastic result for such a young team. In soccer, our U15 Boys' team won the Division One Final of the Dublin Metropolitan League, showcasing great determination and teamwork throughout the season.



Sporting spirit was also on full display off the field, as our 6th Year students hosted a hugely successful volleyball tournament, welcoming teams from local schools for a day of fun and friendly competition. Finally, well done to all our athletes who competed in the West Leinster Athletics, bringing home an impressive number of medals across a range of events.



A huge thank you and congratulations to all students and staff involved in extracurricular sports this year. Your dedication and enthusiasm have made this a year to be proud of.

Other School News: Student Voice and Community Support

This academic year has been a dynamic one for our school as we deepened our commitment to School Self-Evaluation (SSE). Through a range of innovative initiatives, we've embedded reflection and continuous improvement into the heart of our school culture.

One of the standout developments was the introduction of reflection sheets after assessments. These have become a vital tool for both students and teachers, promoting meaningful self-assessment and growth. To support this, our first and second-year students, guided by peers, created permanent storage systems for their reflections—encouraging ownership and easy access for ongoing learning.

Tutor time was reimagined to include structured reflection activities, helping students develop the skills needed for thoughtful self-evaluation. Meanwhile, our TL21 group, in partnership with the Kildare Education Centre, completed its second year, continuing to enhance teaching and learning practices.

We also launched the 'Mirror Mirror' initiative, where students showcased the apps and strategies they use to support their learning—fostering peer-to-peer inspiration. Our student-led SSE committee made a significant impact by developing the *Bi Cineálta Policy*, promoting inclusivity and respect across the school.

In Transition Year, students took part in a dedicated SSE module, leading their own projects and gaining hands-on experience in reflection and goal setting. We also made great strides in developing a new Assessment Policy, ensuring it aligns with best practices and supports student-centered learning.

Finally, we began an exciting exam literacy project, which will see key assessment vocabulary displayed throughout our new school building—helping students feel more confident and prepared.

Together, these initiatives reflect our school's ongoing journey toward a more reflective, inclusive, and empowered learning environment.



A Final Word of Thanks

As we bring another vibrant and successful school year to a close, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who plays a part in making Holy Family Community School such a special place.

A special word of thanks goes to the HFCS Parents' Council, who continue to do tremendous work in supporting school life through their time, energy, and fundraising efforts. Their annual Easter Raffle was a great success, with all funds raised going directly towards enhancing the student experience. We are truly grateful for their dedication.

We would also like to thank all parents, guardians, and members of the wider school community for your continued support throughout the year. Your involvement and encouragement are central to everything we do.

To the staff of Holy Family Community School—thank you for your commitment, care, and hard work in nurturing and guiding our students every day.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting academic year. Until then, have a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer.



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.