



Wexford CBS

Coláiste Éamonn Rís

Christmas Newsletter 2025

The Latest News in Wexford CBS





COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

WELCOME!

Dear Students, Parents, Guardians, Staff and Members of the School Community,

Welcome to our Christmas edition of the school newsletter! Inside, you'll find a wonderful collection of stories celebrating the achievements, events and activities that have filled our school with energy and excitement this term. From sporting victories and academic milestones to festive trips and student-led initiatives, there's something here for everyone to enjoy.

As we approach the holiday season, we hope you take a moment to reflect on all that has been accomplished this year. It's a fantastic reminder of the talent, dedication and spirit that make our school such a special place.

To stay connected and keep up with all the latest news and events, don't forget to follow our social media pages and check our school website.

Wishing you all a joyful, peaceful and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Conor Byrne,
Newsletter Coordinator.**



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COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

Christmas Newsletter 2025

Season's Greetings to our Whole School Community



Principal's Address

Bhur gcéad fáilte go dtí nuachtlitir na Nollag 2025. I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff and students for all their hard work during the course of the past year and to wish staff, students and parents/guardians a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I would also like to thank the members of the Board of Management, the Parents' Council, the PPA and the Students' Council for all ongoing efforts for the benefit of all in the school.

**Michael McMahon,
Principal.**



The Board of Management

The school community would like to express its thanks and appreciation to the members of the current board of management for their stewardship over the past year.

Trustee Representatives: Mr Gerry Forde (Chairperson), Mr Shane Donohoe, Mr David Whitty and Ms Caroline Busher.

Teachers' Representatives: Mrs Linda Scallan and Mr Donal Howlin.

Parents' Representatives: Mrs Pauline Power-Rochard and Mr Colm Dunne.



*At Wexford CBS we have a very active social media presence.
You can check us out by clicking on the following icons:*





COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

The Parents' Council

The Parents' Council A.G.M. was held on Tuesday 22nd October 2025. The following officers were elected: Catherine Buggy (Chairperson), Gretchen Stafford (Secretary), Samantha Donegan and Lydia Oluwabiyi (Joint-Treasurers). The Council has allocated funds towards bursaries for students to attend the Gaeltacht next summer. It has also funded the purchase of new lockers and the repair of existing stock as well as sponsoring a set of jerseys for the senior rugby team. The next Parents' Council meeting is on Tuesday 20th January @7pm in the Board Room. It was great to see such a big turnout at our last meeting.

ADMISSIONS FIRST YEAR 2026-27

We received 319 applications for the 120 places in First Year 2026-27. Places were offered in line with the school's Admissions Policy. There is a considerable waiting list in place.

JUNIOR CYCLE RESULTS

Well done to the 134 students who undertook Junior Cycle exams in June. Work is now underway in finalising their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) Certificates. We will hold an Awards Night for the top performers early in the New Year.

Well done!

TY Ski Tour 2026



We will have an early start on Saturday January 24th as we depart Wexford CBS at 01:00 for an early morning flight to Verona, Italy. We will then transfer by bus to Marilleva 1400 Ski Resort in the Dolomite Region of Italy. We look forward to six days of great fun on the slopes before we depart on January 31st for home.

Preparations are also underway for the next year's TY cohort 2026/27.

First Year School Tour 2026



On the 5-8 of May 2026, our first-year students will trade the classroom for a few days in Italy. Forty students, accompanied by Ms E. Whelan, Ms E. Goff, Mr M. McMahon and Mr M. Kehoe, will travel to Milan, Venice, Verona and Lake Garda.

The trip will give students the chance to experience Italy's history, culture and everyday life firsthand, while making memories with friends along the way. It promises to be a busy and enjoyable few days, and both students and staff are very much looking forward to the experience.

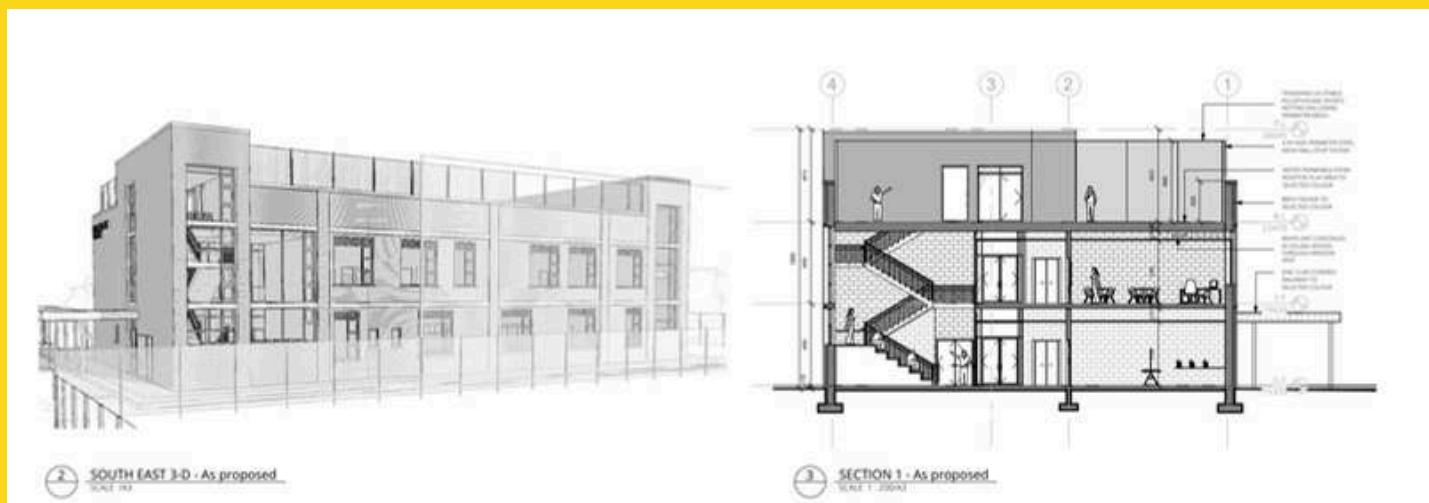


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PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

SCHOOL EXTENSION UPDATE

The Stage 2a submission is currently being finalised by the Design Team and it is hoped to have it submitted to the Department of Education and Youth ahead of the Christmas break.



TY 2025-26

An online TY Information Night will be held for parents of our current Third Years on Tuesday 6th January.

CHRISTMAS EXAMS

Exam results for all years are now published and are accessible on VSware. If you have any difficulty accessing same, contact the school by email (admin@wexfordcbs.ie).

BEREAVEMENTS

We offer our sympathy to all those in our school community who have had a bereavement in the past year. We remember Eoin Bates (T.Y.) and his family on the death of Eoin's Dad Neil Bates R.I.P. and Matthew Phillips O'Connor (Fifth Year) and family on the death of Matthew's Dad, Danny O'Connor R.I.P.

LC & JC EXAM FEES 2026

Following the 2026 Budget announcements, the SEC has been advised that the temporary measures that applied for the past number of years, under which examination entry fees were waived, are not in place for 2026. Accordingly, examination entry fees will apply in 2026 at the same rate as when they were last charged in 2019 details below. The rate of examination fees for the 2026 examinations has not been increased since 2012.

In line with the arrangements which applied when fees were last charged, candidates who hold a full medical card, or who are covered for all services on a parent or guardian's full medical card, which is valid on or between 1 January 2026 and 30 April 2026, are exempt from examination entry fees. Candidates who believe they are eligible for such an exemption, should make an application using our on-line facility which will open on Spring 2026. Please note that G.P. Visit Cards are not eligible for exemption of fees.



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ST. STEPHEN'S DAY SWIM

Our Christmas Charity Swim will take place in Curracloe on St Stephen's Day at 10:30am, with all funds this year going to **Wexford Marine Watch** and **Wexford Women's Refuge**.

Anyone from the wider school community is welcome to get involved – just email egoff@wexfordcbs.ie for further information

Wexford CBS
St. Stephen's Day
Swim 2025

WEXFORD MARINEWATCH

Coláiste Éamonn Rís

Wexford Women's Refuge
To Support and Empower

Join us on **Curracloe Beach** at
10:30am on **St. Stephen's day**
to raise funds for
Wexford Marinewatch &
Wexford Women's Refuge

If you would like to take part and help us raise funds, you
can contact egoff@wexfordcbs.ie for more details.



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HURLING UPDATE

For the first time in many years, the senior hurlers have not qualified from their group and are therefore not looking forward to knock-out action after Christmas. The Juniors topped their group but were undone in the semi-final while the first and second years are busy preparing for their championships in the New Year.

The seniors started off the year with an away league clash against Enniscorthy CBS and played really well but went under by 3-13 to 4-8. FCJ Bunclody visited Piercestown for the second round and came away with the win after a tough game. The championships started with an away game v Callan and after a disastrous start, the lads dug in but the gap was too big and we returned empty handed. Callan defeated Gorey CS too so CBS faced a winner-takes-all home tie v Gorey CS. A late goal secured victory for the Gorey students who progressed to the next round. The CBS senior team was very young this year so hopefully they can return and progress in 26/27.

The juniors topped their group after victories over Gorey CS and Borris, but went under to Callan (eventual winners) in a home semi-final.

The second years have been busy in the gym doing their Athletic Development and training on the Astro in preparation for their upcoming championship in the New Year.

The first years are up and running after a big win against Enniscorthy CBS in the Wexford championship and have a game against Good Counsel College to come. Their Leinster championship fixtures have not been made yet.

Many thanks to Pettitt's SuperValu for providing protein milk and snacks to the seniors every Tuesday morning after their gym sessions with David Kehoe of Wexford GAA. Thanks also to Derek Perry Plumbing and Frank Meagher Electrical for sponsoring gear for the seniors and to Roslin Kitchen and Interiors for sponsoring training tops for the first years.





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ZAMBIA IMMERSION PROJECT 2025 REFLECTION

The highlight of the Zambia Immersion Project undoubtedly takes place in Kabwe, but what many people may not realise is that the real journey begins long before a plane ever leaves Dublin. From the moment the 16 students were selected in March 2024, the project became a shared effort built on commitment, teamwork and the incredible support of the Wexford CBS community.

In the months leading up to the trip, students held a wide range of fundraisers to support a proportion of the cost of the experience, while also raising vital funds for ZAMDA Ireland. These events became central to the project, not just financially, but in bringing people together around a common purpose. Personally, I helped organise a cash for clobber collection at my mother's workplace alongside another student just before the end of TY, followed by a pub quiz at the beginning of 5th year. Both were great successes and highlighted just how generous people are when they believe in a cause.

Team bonding played a massive role in the build up. Group fundraisers such as the St Stephen's Day Swim, music bingo night and the very long, but very rewarding, clothes drive allowed us to get to know one another long before we travelled. These events were about far more than fundraising, they built friendships, trust and a real sense of shared responsibility. Our meetings with Pat Fanning of ZAMDA Ireland also helped prepare us for what lay ahead, while giving parents a clear understanding of the work being done in Kabwe.

By the time we travelled, our group had raised an incredible €32000. These funds are vital in supporting Sables Nua Primary School and contributed directly to the construction of a new shelter for street boys, some of the most vulnerable children in Zambia. This achievement was only possible thanks to the generosity of families, staff, local businesses and the wider school community, whose support never wavered.

In Kabwe, we saw first hand where that money went. We painted classrooms and the school exterior, levelled an unsafe playground with sand and helped with the expansion of the shelter alongside local builders. Every task, no matter how small, felt meaningful because we could see the direct impact it had.

Time spent with the children was the most powerful part of the experience. From the toddlers in the preschool to the teenage shelter boys, unforgettable bonds were formed. Whether it was walking to school early in the morning, hosting a sports day or taking part in the incredible welcome and farewell ceremonies, we were constantly reminded of the warmth, joy and resilience of the Sables Nua community. On our final day, many children gave us small gifts as reminders of our time together, gestures we will treasure forever.

While the project had its challenging moments, particularly during home based visits and our visit to the AIDS hospice, it was also a deeply hopeful experience. The positivity of the children and the compassion shown by everyone we met left a lasting impression and showed the real impact of the work being done in Kabwe and Makululu.

Ultimately, this project reflects everything Wexford CBS stands for, care, service, community and global citizenship. It has left a lasting mark on every student and teacher involved and it is something I will continue to support long after my time in CBS has ended. I would strongly encourage anyone who can support the project in the future to do so.

Iciminshiminshi cisuma (Thank you very much),

Thady Cuddihy.





COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

PPA 7- A- SIDE 2025

CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP



PPA 7-A-Side Soccer Tournament '25

**Sunday 28th December
Wexford CBS Astro**

Kick off: 12pm | Max Squad: 10 Players

Cost: €10pp (Current CBS Students €5pp)

Past Pupils & Friends of Wexford CBS are welcome

**Text 087 4035474 or check out @wexcbsppa on social media for
more information and how to sign up**

**Kindly
Supported by:**

SINNOTT'S BAR



COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED (LCA)

We are pleased to announce that an alternative to the established Leaving Certificate will be offered again to students of Coláiste Éamonn Rís in the next academic year. This is the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme (LCA).

What is LCA?

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two-year Leaving Certificate available to students who wish to follow a more practical Leaving Certificate Programme with a vocational focus.

Who should consider LCA?

- Someone who prefers learning by doing
- Someone who would be motivated by continuous assessment
- Someone who wants to get work experience to help them with their career choice
- Someone who wants to develop skills which will help them in their future career

What is different about LCA?

It is a practical Leaving Certificate programme which places particular emphasis on preparation for the world of work and life-long learning.

The learning experiences are active and practical where students apply their knowledge, skills and experience to real life situations in the school, in the workplace and in the wider community.

The programme provides a wealth of opportunities which enhance the self-esteem and confidence of students

While there are final examinations in some subjects, there is less emphasis on the final examinations, and more emphasis on continuous assessment.

Subjects

All students of LCA take the following subjects:

- Vocational Preparation and Guidance
- English and Communication
- Mathematical Applications
- Information and Communication Technology
- Arts Education (Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts)
- Social Education
- Gaeilge Chumarsáideach
- Modern Language (French or German in Coláiste Éamonn Rís)
- Leisure and Recreation
- Elective Modules (To be confirmed)

In addition to the above, students complete two specialist vocational courses. These Vocational Specialisms develop specific skills and knowledge relevant to a range of careers.

Coláiste Éamonn Rís propose to offer two of the following specialisms:

- Active Leisure Studies
- Graphics and Construction Studies
- Information and Communication Technology
- Office Administration and Customer Care
- Agriculture/Horticulture
- Craft and Design

The current 5th & 6th year students are studying Active Leisure Studies and Graphics and Construction Studies as their specialisms.

Students of Coláiste Éamonn Rís will also have the opportunity to study the established Leaving Certificate Mathematics and an established Leaving Certificate Modern Language, while also studying the LCA Programme.

Assessment

Course work is assessed throughout the two years and students gain credit as they go along. Students' work and skill development is assessed in different ways including interviews, written oral and practical components.

They experience regular feedback on their success and achievement.

Assessment will consist of ongoing attendance, classwork and assignments, 7 student tasks (project work) and 7 final examinations.

Attendance

A minimum of 90% attendance is a basic requirement of the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme.

Work Experience

Work experience is a significant component of the programme and students get to sample a range of occupations and get first-hand experience of the world of work. Students will engage in work experience one day each week.

Further Education/ Training and Higher Education

LCA is accepted for a wide range of Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses at FETAC Level 5.

Doing a PLC course can offer opportunities to progress onto university or college.

LCA is acceptable for direct entry to apprenticeships and other vocational training awards.

LCA holders with a merit or distinction are eligible to apply to An Garda Síochána directly.

Skills that will be developed for work and life

- Communication
- Team Work
- Enterprise
- Organisation
- Self-Awareness
- Confidence
- Self-Esteem
- Motivation
- Initiative
- Planning



If our new Leaving Certificate Applied Programme is of interest to you and your son, and you would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact our LCA coordinator, Ms. Elizabeth Henneberry at lca@wexfordcbs.ie



COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

CONGRATULATIONS JOHNNIE WALSH!

Congratulations to Johnnie Walsh in 5th year, who recently won the Senus Photography Competition for its 2026 calendar. Johnnie impressed the judges with a stunning photograph of a sunrise he captured on Rosslare Beach. His winning image will feature in next year's calendar.

Well done, Johnnie - a fantastic achievement!





COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

TY GAELTACHT TRIP 2026



We are delighted to confirm that the Irish language and adventure activities trip to the Gaeltacht, Coláiste Acla, will take place from Monday 18th May 2026 to Thursday 21st May 2026. It is intended that this trip will provide both encouragement and confidence in the Irish language and help prepare our students for their future studies.

This is a great opportunity for students to speak Irish outside of the school environment and for them to realise that Irish is a spoken language and is not just a subject they need to study for their Junior/Leaving Certificate. We strongly recommend this trip to all students as we believe immersion into the language and the culture of the Gaeltacht is vital. Currently, the Irish Leaving Certificate Oral Exam and Aural Exam account for 40% and 10% respectively for both higher and ordinary level.

This trip also offers the opportunity to develop personally, socially and physically in a safe and challenging environment through a wide range of outdoor activities and the Irish language.

This trip is open to all students of TY, including those with exemptions, as the trip affords students the opportunity to be immersed in true Irish culture. This trip also coincides with the P.E. curriculum which requires an outdoor activity module that will be fulfilled by this trip.

This proposed trip makes a trip to the Gaeltacht accessible to most students at a total cost of €290. This includes travel, accommodation, food and activities. The trip is based primarily on spoken Irish with an emphasis on outdoor activities. Students will take part in many different fun activities such as- canoeing, surfing, bog snorkelling, cliff diving as well as Irish song and dance. This trip has proved a great success since it began many years ago and many of our students have returned more than once.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Is muidne le meas,
Roinn na Gaeilge**



COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

GAA FOOTBALL UPDATE

First Year Football

The first-year footballers kicked off the year with a series of lunchtime games in September. There was some great football on display as lads got to know and play with their fellow first years for the first time. In early October two squads were picked to head up to Ferns Centre of Excellence to don the purple and gold of Wexford CBS for the first time as footballers. Both teams represented the school with distinction on a fine autumn day. Team A started well against St. Peter's College but eventually lost by a point, having had plenty of chances to win the game. They beat Bunclody in the second game to qualify for the shield semi-final. In a repeat of the St Peter's game our lads put a great effort again falling just short by 1 point. Team B played games against CBS Enniscorthy, St Peter's and Creagh College. They unfortunately also lost their shield semifinal. All the players got plenty of pitch time and enjoyed the day out.

Training continued after school on Monday and lunchtime Thursday. St. Peter's were the first opponents in our group in Championship. Despite some injuries the Boker Boys travelled up to St Peter's and put on a great display of football. St. Peter's in the second half managed to score a few quick goals to come back and led by 3 points with 10minutes to go. Our lads rallied and fought back to gain a 4-point lead heading into injury time. A late goal gave St. Peter's some hope, but CBS held on to win their first championship game. They will play Bunclody in their second game on Tuesday 16th of December with the winning topping the group. They will play games in the Wexford championship after Christmas, leaving this very talented group of players with plenty of football to play.

Junior Football

The Junior Football season got underway at the beginning of October as more 40 players attended the first session on the CBS Astro. Our South-Leinster campaign began with an away game to FCJ Bunclody on November 17th. In a disappointing day for our lads we faced an FCJ Bunclody side who were organised, disciplined and were ruthless in their approach. After a poor first half showing, our lads displayed a lot more fight and determination that was spearheaded by some of the third-year players who came off the bench. The fighting spirit and determination continued until the final whistle but ultimately lose out to a classy and more superior FCJ Bunclody side on the day on a score line of 5-11 to 1-6.

After a debrief, the team focused on making improvements in training. We identified areas as a group to work on and the application to training sessions improved as a result. Next up we faced our neighbours St. Peter's College. The Boker Boys controlled proceedings in the first half. Alfie Canning, Alex Miller and Eoghan Kehoe all helped gain control around the middle, whilst Rhys Farrell O'Connor, Tadhg Furlong and Matthew Perry looked dangerous up front. Our dominance didn't reflect the scoreboard at halftime as the sides went in level on a score line of 1-2 to 0-05.

The second half was an up and down battle. Lots of turnovers made it an exciting spectacle as momentum changed hands throughout the 30 minutes of play. Our patience and composure on the ball lead to many chances as we carved opportunities and felt we left some behind us. Aaron Mullally dictated many of the team's moves as players like Rory Sidney and Tom Barret became more influential.

St. Peter's were always a threat and kept themselves in the game with some super long-range score taking. Throughout the game the defence held strong and were heroic at times. Donal Dwyer and Danielius Narbutas embodied the tenacity and quality of our tackling. As the game entered added on time the game was in the melting point, we came from two down to level. A misplaced free kick lead to a goal mouth scramble which lead to an agonising winning goal for St. Peter's. As the whistle blew for fulltime the team were devastated we would have been full deserving of a more positive result. The fight, determination and work rate could not be faulted and their mentors Mr. Porter and Mr. Furlong were extremely proud of the team's efforts.



COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

GAA FOOTBALL UPDATE

Mr. Porter and Mr. Furlong would like to thank the players, parents and guardians and all in the school community for the support and efforts so far this year. A game vs Gorey CS is scheduled for after Christmas with the lads still in the hunt with what would be a miraculous path through to the knockout stages.

Senior Football

Our Senior Football season began in early October with a talented squad at our disposal, a deep run in the league and championship was a target for the team. The year started with a league game vs St. Peters college in Power Park where we defeated the hosts 3-10 to 1-12. All members of our panel who attended got game time and it showcased the desire to represent the school team. We then defeated Enniscorthy CBS on a scoreline of 1-12 to 1-11 to qualify for the league knockout stages which will be played in the new year.

Our championship adventure began with another game against St. Peters College. After a tough opening 30 mins, the Boker boys had the lead 1-5 to 3 points. The second half started like the first ended with the CBS resolute in defence, however as the half progressed, the St Peters team began to find their groove and a fine 2 pointed free, on the stroke of full time, snatching a draw for the home side. The final score was Wexford CBS 1-8 St Peters College 0-11. Sean O'Brien lead the way on the scoreboard with 5 points and Paddy Power grabbed the only goal of the game.

Next up was a game in Bunclody vs FCJ. After a slow start by the CBS men, we tore into the second half but narrowly suffered defeat to the home side on a scoreline of 1-11 to 1-13. The returning Kaylem Harnett grabbed the goal from the penalty spot.

This result meant we were going into the final group game on one point and we needed to win against Portlaoise CBS to progress to the latter stages of the championship. As a team, we didn't get the performance required, particularly in the opening quarter and we fell to a heavy defeat to a strong, well-drilled and clinical Portlaoise side in Hollymount.

Mr. McMahon and Mr. Kirwan would like to thank all the players and their parents for their commitment this year. We will regroup and go again once the league semi-final details are announced.





COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY FOR SELF HELP AFRICA

Eoin Barry and Alex Miller (TY) presenting Mr McMahon and Mr Porter with €840 in aid of Self Help Africa. The students donated €2 on Christmas Jumper Day. Mr Porter visited Uganda with the Gaelic Players Association's Plant the Planet Games initiative, in collaboration with Self Help Africa. The school community contributed to the nearly half a million euro raised by this year's initiative. Mr Porter would like to express his gratitude and appreciation to the school community for their generosity towards the charity. The money has gone towards leaving a lasting legacy for people in Uganda.





COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

CONGRATULATIONS MIR HASIBULLAH ZIA

Huge congratulations to Mir Hasibullah Zia who is the national champion in the over 17 Europe Direct Soapbox debating championships!

Seven regional winners competed for the national prize and CBS 6th year student Hasib emerged as the overall winner and received €1,000!

The Finals were held in the College of Physicians, Dublin and were sponsored by the European Commission.





COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The past few months have been a busy and rewarding time for the Geography Department.

3rd Year Geographical Investigation:

In September, all third-year students took part in a geographical investigation at Rosslare Strand. They examined the rate of coastal erosion, transportation and deposition, while also exploring how humans have interacted with the coastal landscape both positively and negatively. Students also considered the measures being taken to protect the coastline from further erosion and the impacts of climate change.

6th Year Geographical Investigation:

Our sixth-year students travelled to Carnivan, Fethard, to complete their Leaving Certificate Geographical Investigation, which is worth 20% of their final examination. They investigated the rate of erosion and the formation of a sea cliff. A great day was had by all, and the write-up process is progressing well, with final submission due in April.

2nd Year CBA1:

Looking ahead to 2026, second-year students will begin their CBA1, Geography in the News, in February. This project will see students investigate a geographical event and report on its significance.

TY Trip to Glendalough:

Also in February, the Geography Department looks forward to taking Transition Year students to Glendalough, where they will investigate the glacial landscape while undertaking a hike in this outstanding natural environment.

5th Year Trip to the Burren & Cliffs of Moher, Co. Clare:

In March, our fifth-year students will travel on an overnight field trip to the Burren and the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare. They will investigate karst surface and underground features, as well as the formation of sea cliffs. This trip is shaping up to be a highlight of the year for our fifth-year geographers.





COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

TRANSITION YEAR UPDATE

Transition Year at Wexford CBS has been busy from the start, with students taking part in a range of activities inside and outside school.

In September, TY students travelled to the IOAC in Wexford for an overnight trip. The group completed a 20km walk as part of their GAISCE challenge, which was a long but rewarding day for everyone. After the walk, tents were assigned and the students spent the night camping. That evening, there was a campfire where many of the students had a sing-song, with Páidi Griffin on the guitar. The boys enjoyed a takeaway from the lovely Lings. The following day involved a series of organised activities, such as high ropes and kayaking. It was a good opportunity for teamwork and getting to know each other early in the year.

A short time later, the TYs headed to Curracloe for a surfing lesson. Conditions on the day were ideal, and the instructors got everyone into the water quickly. For some students it was their first time on a surfboard, while others already had experience, but everyone made progress across the session. It was an enjoyable, active day.

November focused more on practical skills, with each TY class taking part in a certified two-day First Aid course. The training covered CPR, dealing with common injuries, recognition of emergencies and the correct response procedures. By the end of the sessions, students had a clear understanding of what to do in real-life situations where first aid may be required.

In December, the TY groups travelled to Dublin. The first stop was Croke Park, where the students took part in the Skyline Tour along the stadium roof. The tour gave insight into the stadium's layout and facilities, and offered views across the city. Afterwards, the group went on to Dundrum for some time to shop and have lunch before returning home.

The first term of Transition Year has provided a mix of outdoor activity, new skills, and opportunities for students to work together. There will be more trips and projects to come throughout the rest of the year, and the students have made a positive start to the TY programme.

Liam O'Brien, Charlie Mullan.





COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

PAST PUPILS' ASSOCIATION UPDATE

As the year draws to a close, it has been another busy and successful period for the Wexford CBS Past Pupils' Association and the wider school community. Highlights from recent months included the CBS Awards Night 2025, celebrating academic excellence and student achievement, and the Wexford CBS Careers Fair, where many past pupils generously shared their time and experience to support students in planning for the future.

The PPA was also delighted to give back directly to the school through its Support Funding Programme, providing assistance this year to the Equestrian Team, 1st and 2nd Year Football, and Junior and Senior Football, helping to support participation and development across a range of activities. Fundraising events such as the PPA Golf Classic continued to play a vital role in making this support possible and it was great to see so many past pupils there.

Looking ahead to the festive period, the PPA 7-a-Side Soccer Tournament will take place over the Christmas holidays on December 28th, offering another opportunity for past pupils and friends of the school to reconnect.

We would like to wish everyone connected with Wexford CBS - students, staff, parents and past pupils - a very Merry Christmas and safe and restful New Year.

To read our latest newsletter & to keep up to date with Wexford CBS PPA - [CLICK HERE](#).





COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

STUDENT ENTERPRISE & CHRISTMAS FAIR 2025

The annual CBS Christmas Fair was held in the school gym on Thursday 4th December and was a great success! Students from 1st, 2nd and Transition Year set up a mini-business which involved researching their product and services, producing a prototype and marketing and selling their product. There was a wide variety of products available on the day including seasonal Christmas decorations. Santa Claus greeted all the children and there was mulled wine and mince pies available for all. The children enjoyed Christmas colouring and face painting. A Christmas jumper day was also held and money was raised for Self Help Africa. Thank you to all who helped to make the Christmas Fair such a wonderful event!





COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING INFORMATION 2025/26

Senior Cycle Students Explore SETU Carlow

In October, a group of our Senior Cycle students enjoyed an inspiring and informative campus tour at SETU Carlow, gaining valuable insight into college life and the many pathways available after secondary school.

From the moment we arrived, students were warmly welcomed by SETU's friendly ambassadors, who guided us through their impressive facilities, including lecture halls, labs, studios, and social spaces. Students had the chance to learn about the wide range of courses offered, explore the vibrant student community, and experience what learning looks like at third level.

Throughout the visit, students asked excellent questions about entry requirements, student supports, and life on campus. Many commented on how beneficial it was to see a real working college environment, helping them feel more motivated and informed as they plan their future pathways.

We are very grateful to SETU Carlow for their hospitality and for offering our students such an enjoyable, meaningful, and encouraging experience.



CAO Information Night for Parents

In November, we were delighted to welcome Laura Creevey from Maynooth University to present at our annual CAO Information Night for Parents. The evening provided families with a clear and practical overview of the CAO process and the many routes available to students after the Leaving Certificate.

Laura delivered an engaging and informative presentation covering course choices, entry requirements, apprenticeships, FE pathways, progression routes, and key dates. Parents appreciated her clear guidance, reassurance, and helpful tips on how best to support their children during this important time.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Laura for her time, expertise, and continued support. The strong attendance and positive feedback highlight our school community's shared commitment to helping students make confident and informed decisions about their futures.



COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING INFORMATION 2025/26

Reminder for 6th Years - CAO Applications

A reminder to all 6th Year students that the CAO early application fee remains €30 until 20th January. From 20th January–1st February, the fee increases to €45.

After 1st February, students can no longer create a new CAO application.

Students are strongly encouraged to open their CAO account as soon as possible to avoid additional costs and to ensure they meet the February deadline.

6th Year Individual Appointments

Individual guidance appointments for 6th Year students are continuing. Students who have submitted their Personal Development & Career Plan have already received their initial meeting. This session helps students explore options after the Leaving Certificate and gives them clear goals to work toward. Appointments will continue after the Christmas break. Students are encouraged to return their booklet promptly to secure an appointment before CAO applications close on 1st February.

DARE Education Impact Statement (EIS) – Section B Completion

After the Christmas break, the Guidance Department and AEN Department will begin completing Section B – Education Impact Statement (EIS) for students who are eligible to apply for the DARE scheme.

Students who meet the criteria are asked to ensure all required personal documentation is ready and to submit their DARE worksheets to the Guidance Office as soon as possible in January.

The EIS is an essential part of the application, and timely submission helps ensure everything is completed before the February deadline. If you believe you may be eligible for DARE or have any questions, please contact the Guidance Department for support.

WWETB Apprentice and Skills Expo in SETU Arena Waterford

On Thursday November 9th, a group of 6th year students headed to the WWETB Apprentice and Skills Expo in SETU Arena Waterford. Here, they got to meet with potential employers in lots of different industries from hospitality to the motor industry to construction. The students enjoyed their time networking and gaining a better understanding of the different opportunities that are available to them after school.





COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING INFORMATION 2025/26

Careers Fair Success

This term, we were proud to host our most successful Collaborative Careers Fair to date. The event welcomed an exciting range of colleges, universities, training providers, and industry professionals, each generously sharing their knowledge and experience with our students.

Students engaged enthusiastically throughout the evening—asking thoughtful questions, exploring new pathways, and gaining valuable insights into further education, apprenticeships, and the world of work. Feedback from exhibitors was outstanding, with many praising both the event and our students:

- "The students were so friendly, helpful, and mannerly. We had great engagement all night."
- "A fantastic event—so positive and inspiring."
- "One of the best careers evenings we've attended."
- "The students were an absolute credit to the school."

We extend our sincere thanks to all staff, volunteers, and exhibitors who made this event such a success. The evening highlighted the importance of giving young people the space to explore, dream big, and feel confident in the choices ahead.

My Experience as a Student and Volunteer at This Year's Careers Fair - Ronan Hynes, TY

Taking part in this year's Careers Fair was a really enjoyable and valuable experience for me, both as a student and as a volunteer. I loved getting the chance to speak with so many different professionals, colleges, employers, and training providers. Hearing directly from them made everything feel much clearer, and it opened my eyes to opportunities I hadn't even considered before.

Each stand offered something different, and everyone I talked to was friendly, helpful, and more than willing to answer my questions. I learned so much about the different pathways available after school, and it gave me a much better understanding of what my own future might look like.

At the end of the night, I dropped my "five signatures" ticket into the raffle box without expecting anything, so I was shocked and delighted to find out later that I had won the prize of six driving lessons! I'm really excited about that, but I'm also genuinely grateful that we had such a brilliant Careers Fair here in the CBS this year. It was a great experience, and I'm glad I got to be part of it.

A Festive Message from the Guidance Department

"As we look toward a new year, may you find moments of rest, hope, and inspiration.

Believe in your path, trust your pace, and know that brighter days are always ahead.

Wishing all our students and families a peaceful, joyful Christmas, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back safe and well in 2026."

The Guidance Department.





COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS



SOCCKER UPDATE



It has been another busy year so far for all of our school soccer teams.

Our senior side got off to a great start, emerging victorious from two very difficult away fixtures in the Leinster Cup, with a 4-2 win against Kingswood Tallaght, followed by a penalty shootout victory over Patrician Newbridge after a tense game. They began strongly in the league with a 12-1 win over St Killian's Bray, before suffering a shock 4-2 loss to TCG Greystones. This particular result galvanised the lads, and they responded with a commanding 9-1 win over Gorey CS to top the league group and advance to the knockout phase, where they will face Carnew at home. In the cup, they defeated Pipers Hill College Naas 7-1 to progress to the last 16.

The Under-17 team has made an excellent start to the season, winning all six games so far and remarkably conceding only one goal. They overcame rivals Bridgetown 2-1 away in the cup before navigating a tricky away fixture against Drimnagh Castle CBS with a 6-0 victory. They then defeated Tyndall College Carlow 9-0 to advance to the last 16, where they will face Gorey CS. This form has continued in the league with solid wins over Bridgetown (3-0), Gorey CS (3-0), and neighbours and new rivals St Peter's College (5-0) in a historic fixture.

It has been a disappointing year for our strong Under-15 side, who were defeated in the first round of the cup by a strong Kilkenny CBS team, 4-3. In the league, however, the lads defeated Gorey CS and Bridgetown to advance to the knockout phase as group winners. Their focus is now on winning the league title.

Our first-year side has made a bright start to their CBS careers, winning an away fixture in Dublin in the first round of the cup, followed by a brilliant 2-1 extra-time victory over the prestigious Moyle Park Community School in the next round. They will begin their league campaign in the new year and look forward to a home cup round against Callan CBS.

In related news, Alex Norval represented the school as right back on the Leinster squad in the annual interprovincial competition.

Of course, our biggest news is that last year's All-Ireland champions will head to China in October 2026 to represent Ireland in the prestigious ISF Schools World Cup, an event that has been running for over 60 years. Fundraising for this event will take place throughout the year, and anyone wishing to support the lads on this once-in-a-lifetime venture can email ccconnolly@wexfordcbs.ie or pwhitty@wexfordcbs.ie. The team will be preparing for the event throughout the year, and, hopefully, the continued success of our school teams will support them along the way.



COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS



SOCcer UPDATE





COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

EDMUND RICE
SCHOOLS TRUST



As you are aware, our school is part of the wider Edmund Rice community in Ireland and indeed around the world. Please visit www.ERST.ie to see the latest newsletter from E.R.S.T. to catch up what's happening in some of the Edmund Rice schools in Ireland.

Christmas 2025 Edmund Rice Schools Trust

ESÍOL

WARM GREETINGS

May this Christmas bring peace and happiness to you and your family.

THANK YOU

Thanks to all our schools that have submitted articles for our network magazine. It is wonderful to see Edmund Rice education in action in our schools around the country.

Christmas holds a special significance in Catholic schools as a time to reflect on the central Christian message of hope, love, and the birth of Jesus. It offers a meaningful opportunity for students and staff to deepen their understanding of the Gospel, engage in prayer and liturgy, and celebrate the values of compassion, generosity, and community.

LOOKING AHEAD

We wish all of you a very happy New Year. May it be peaceful for everyone, especially for those who are currently experiencing war and violence.

SPECIAL MESSAGE

"Christmas is not as much about opening presents as it is about opening our hearts."

A small image of Santa Claus holding a sign that reads "SPECIAL MESSAGE".



COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

School re-opens: Monday 5th January 2026.

Second Year P/T Meeting:

Tuesday 6th January 2026 - Classes end at 3.30pm.

First Year P/T Meeting:

Wednesday 21st January 2026 - Classes end at 3.30pm.

February Bank Holiday:

Monday 2nd February 2026 - school closed.

Leaving Cert. Mock Exams:

Friday 6th February 2026 – Friday 13th February 2026.

Junior Cycle Mock Exams:

Monday 9th February 2026 – Friday 13th February 2026.

Senior Cycle Redevelopment Inservice:

11th February 2026 - school closed.

Mid-term Break: 16th February:

20th February 2026 inclusively - school closed

St. Patrick's Bank Holiday:

Monday 17th March 2026 - school closed.

Easter Holidays:

Monday 30th March 2026 - Friday 10th April 2026 inclusively.

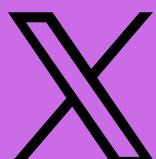
May Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May 2026 - school closed.

End of Term/School Year: Friday 29th May 2026.

School Website:



Follow us on:



Mar fhocal scoir,

*Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir agus
athbhliain faoi shéan agus faoi
mhaise daoibh*

Michael McMahon,
Principal.



Wexford CBS
Coláiste Éamonn Ris

*Happy
Christmas*





COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

ASTROTURF PITCH AVAILABLE TO RENT!!

Our fantastic new floodlit Astroturf pitch is now available to rent by sports clubs and members of the public.



Please [click here](#) for more information on how to book your slot.



To see more drone footage of our new Astro Pitch, [click here](#).