



# Our Lady of Mercy College

Christmas Newsletter 2024





# Principal's Christmas Message



Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

It has been a fantastic first term here at Our Lady of Mercy College, filled with many highlights and memorable moments.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, who consistently go above and beyond the call of duty to create a wholesome and warm learning environment for our students. Your commitment and passion are truly inspiring. I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our auxiliary staff for all their hard work.

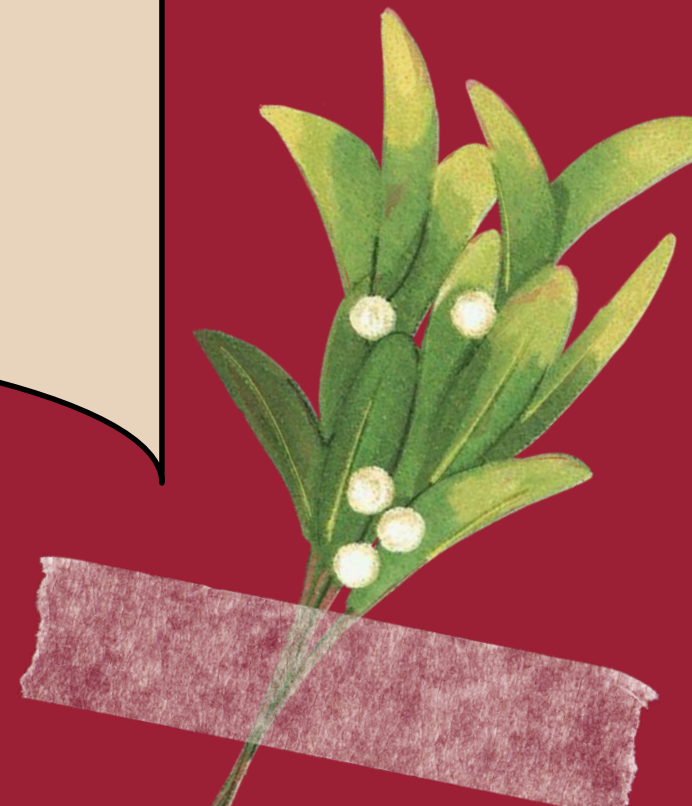
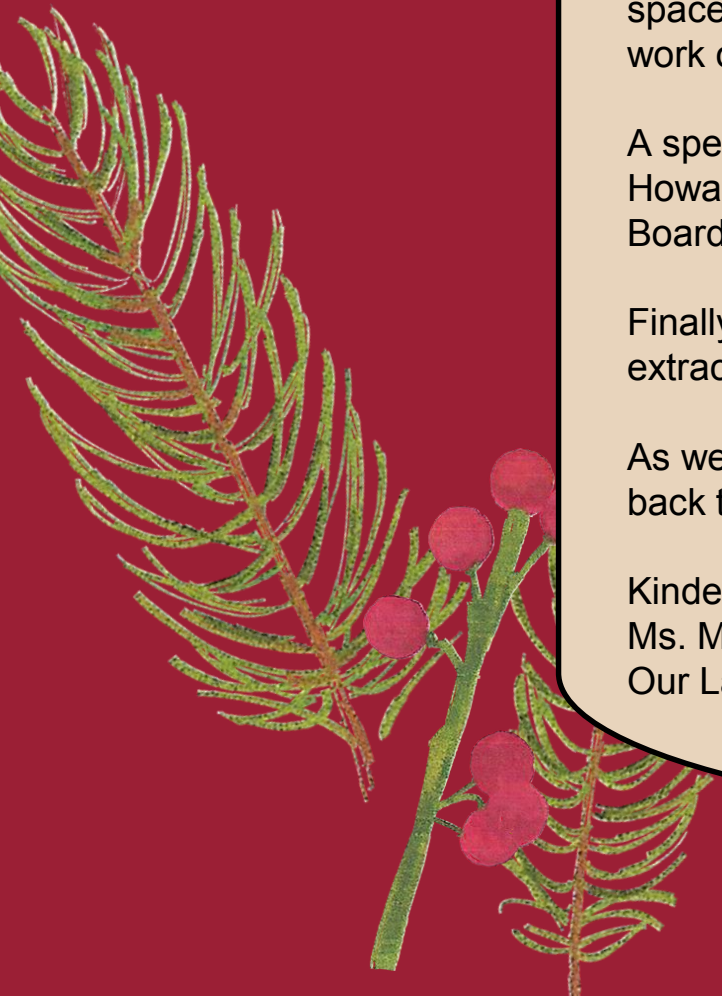
To our parents and volunteers, your unwavering support and dedication play an essential role in making our school the exceptional learning space it is. We genuinely appreciate your involvement and partnership in our educational journey. We acknowledge the wonderful support and work of the parents association.

A special thanks goes to our fantastic Deputy Principal and editor of the Christmas newsletter, Ms. Ciara Howard. We are deeply grateful for Ms. Howard's unwavering dedication and commitment to the life of our school. We also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of CEIST and the Board of Management in guiding the operations of our school.

Finally, a massive thank you to our wonderful students for engaging wholeheartedly with their lessons and being brilliant participants in the many extracurricular activities that enrich our school life each week.

As we approach the festive season, I would like to wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas season. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on January 6th for our second term, ready to embrace new challenges and opportunities.

Kindest regards,  
Ms. Maura Gray  
Our Lady of Mercy College





# New School Gym



Thank you to Ms. McAuliffe and Mr. Keaney who worked very hard over the last 2 years to organise the installation of our new school Gym. This Gym will be available for the use in classes by our Senior Cycle Students



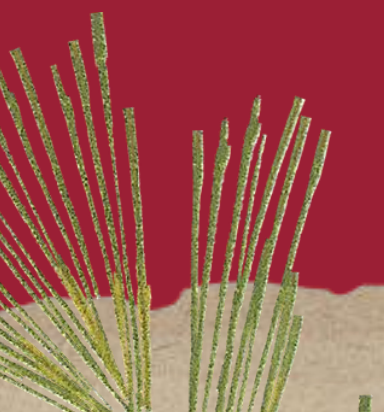



# Parents' Association Christmas Raffle

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported our Christmas raffle this year! We are thrilled to announce that we raised an incredible €513, which will go towards the development of our new gym.

A special thank you goes out to our Parents' Association for their hard work and dedication in organising this event, as well as to our generous local sponsors who contributed to the success of the raffle. Your support makes a significant difference in our school community and helps us provide better facilities for our students.

We truly appreciate your continued involvement and commitment to enhancing our school experience. Thank you once again for your generosity!





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Student Leadership

A Snapshot of TY

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:





# Student Leadership

- Students' Council
- Ember Faith Leadership





# Student Council 2024/2025



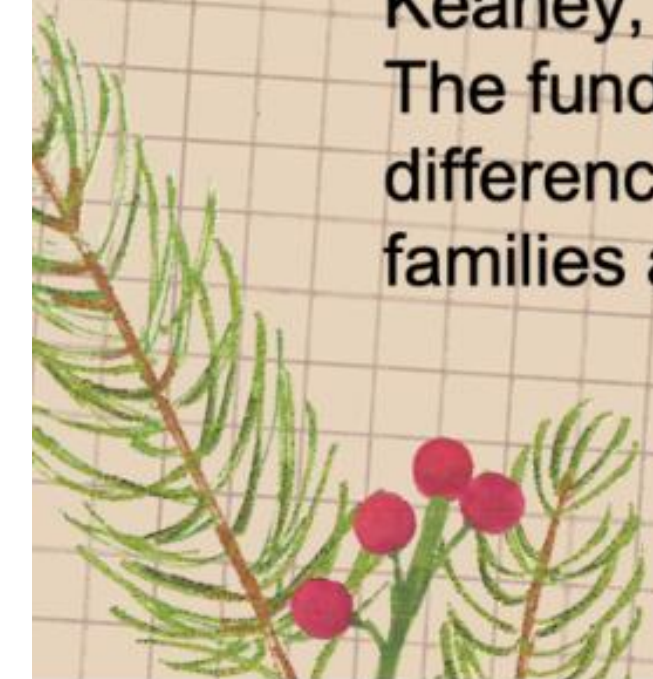




# Trick or Treat for Temple Street

This year, our school proudly raised an impressive €803 as part of the *Trick or Treat for Temple Street* fundraiser.

A huge thanks to all the students for their hard work and enthusiasm in making this event a success and to their teachers to Ms. Rooney & Ms. Keaney,  
The funds will bring a meaningful difference to the children and families at Temple Street Hospital!







# HAPPY HALLOWEEN



## Trick or Treat Fancy Dress







Happy  
Halloween





# Student Council visit Catherine McAuley Nursing Home



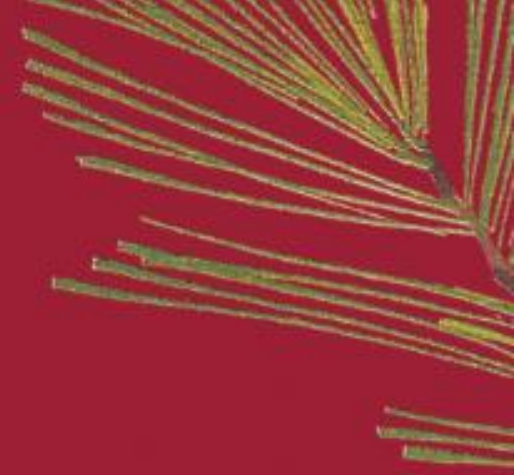
The Student Council visited the residents of Catherine McAuley Nursing Home for tea and chats, bringing along beautiful letters created by our talented first-year students.

There they worked on jigsaw puzzles together and shared stories.

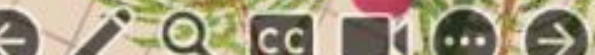
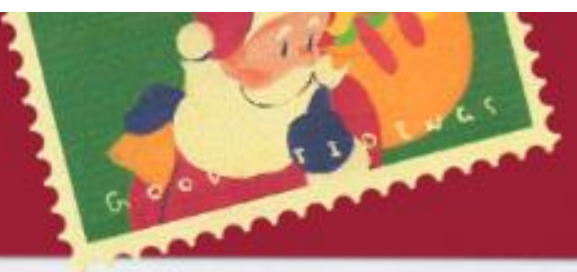
It was a wonderful afternoon for everyone, we're already looking forward to returning next year!















# Ember Faith Leaders

Thirteen of our 5th Year students are leading the Ember Faith Leadership Programme in our school.

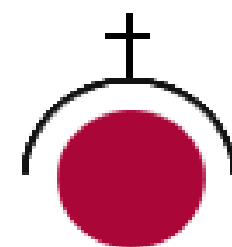
The initial focus of the team can be to support the *transition of incoming first years* into the school community,

The team continue to meet on a weekly basis throughout the school year to plan, implement and review other activities that promote the *Christian spirit* of the school.

The students began with a 3 day leadership training retreat in Ovoca Manor in September and led our **Mercy Week** celebrations with a treasure hunt, taking RE lessons with the 1st Years on the history of the school and Catherine McAuley and brought the students for a walk to convent in Beaumont Woods.

In November the team was involved in our **Remembrance Service** and is planning out **Advent services** which will take place in our oratory at lunchtimes on Monday up to Christmas, as well as organising a Christmas movie and hot chocolates for our 1st Years.

A huge thank you to the students involved for the positive impact they are making to promote the Christian spirit of the school.



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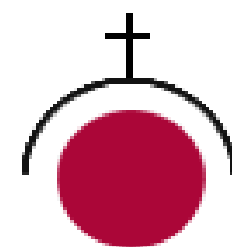




# Ember Faith Leaders



Meghan O'Loughlin	Amelia Matuszek-Skibiak
Michelle Osei Bonsu	Arsema Kidane Habteab
Prayer Onakoya	Glenda Oduwa
Sona Maria Bino	Jia Angel Bhoobun
Sophie Ann McCann	Kate Woods
Scarlett Thakur	Kerry Forde Kelly
Amelia Wawrykiewicz	



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Education Secretariat





# Ember Activities







POPE JOHN PAUL II  
AWARD

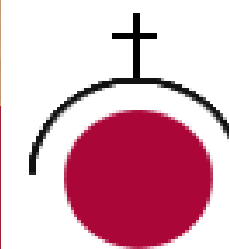
# Pope John Paul II Award

**Making young people visible in their church,  
community & society**

The Pope John Paul II Award is a faith achievement award for young people between the age of 16 and 18. It is **non-competitive, inclusive, flexible and voluntary**.

The Award enables participants to take an active part in the life of their Church – in the life of their community and society. It enables young people become more aware of the teaching and role of the Church in the world and to engage at a deep level with Christ.

23 of our TY's have chosen to take on the Award and have been working on our November Remembrance service and Advent services. They are also organising our Annual Christmas food appeal.



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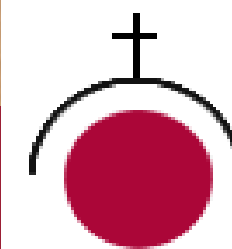
# Pope John Paul II Award



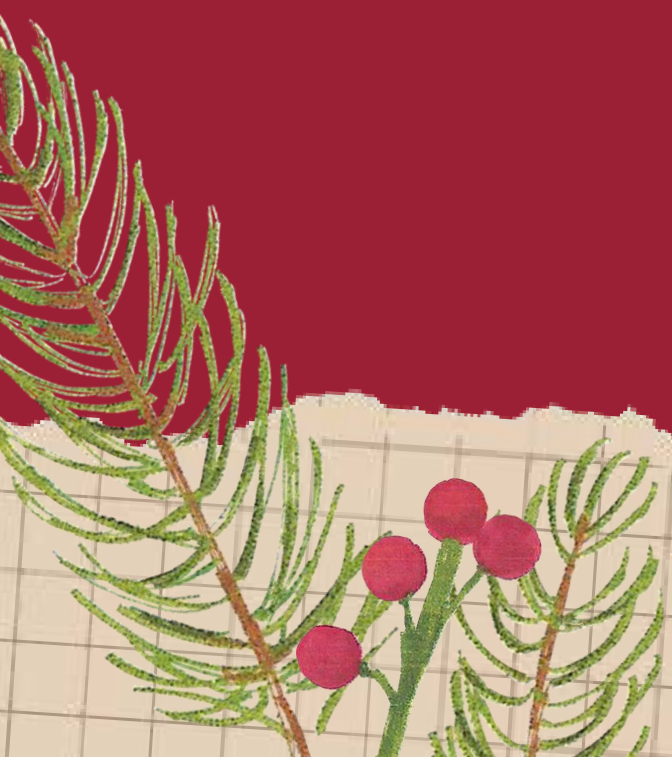
Pearl Arzaga	Naia Montague Bardeci
Emily Bannon	Abigail Nelmidia
Esther Joelle Braganza	Emilia O'Brien
Pandeenaa Buckley	Benedita Ojobu
Tamika Byrne	Hannah O'Reilly
Grace Cawley	Aida O'Rourke
Gemma Dunne	Teagan O'Sullivan
Ellie Rose Gough	Annamaria Radu
Holly Harbourne Doyle	Layla Rooney
Zara Isik	Vanessa Survila
Dusica Janus	Naia Montague Bardeci
Lily Maguire	Abigail Nelmidia
Roxy McKevitt	Emilia O'Brien
	Benedita Ojobu



POPE JOHN PAUL II  
AWARD



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Education Secretariat





# TY Events over the past few months



Tanagh Outdoor  
Adventure Centre

It has been a busy few months in TY with students attending lots of events, heading out on trips and developing their skills through different workshops



National Ploughing  
Championships



# TY SciFest



Our TYs took part in SciFest this term where they displayed their projects to students and to visiting judges. The students worked hard on their projects all term came up with interesting and engaging projects. Well done to all the students and the winning groups



# TY SciFest





# TY SciFest





# TY SciFest





# TY SciFest





# TY SciFest





# TY SciFest





# School Events

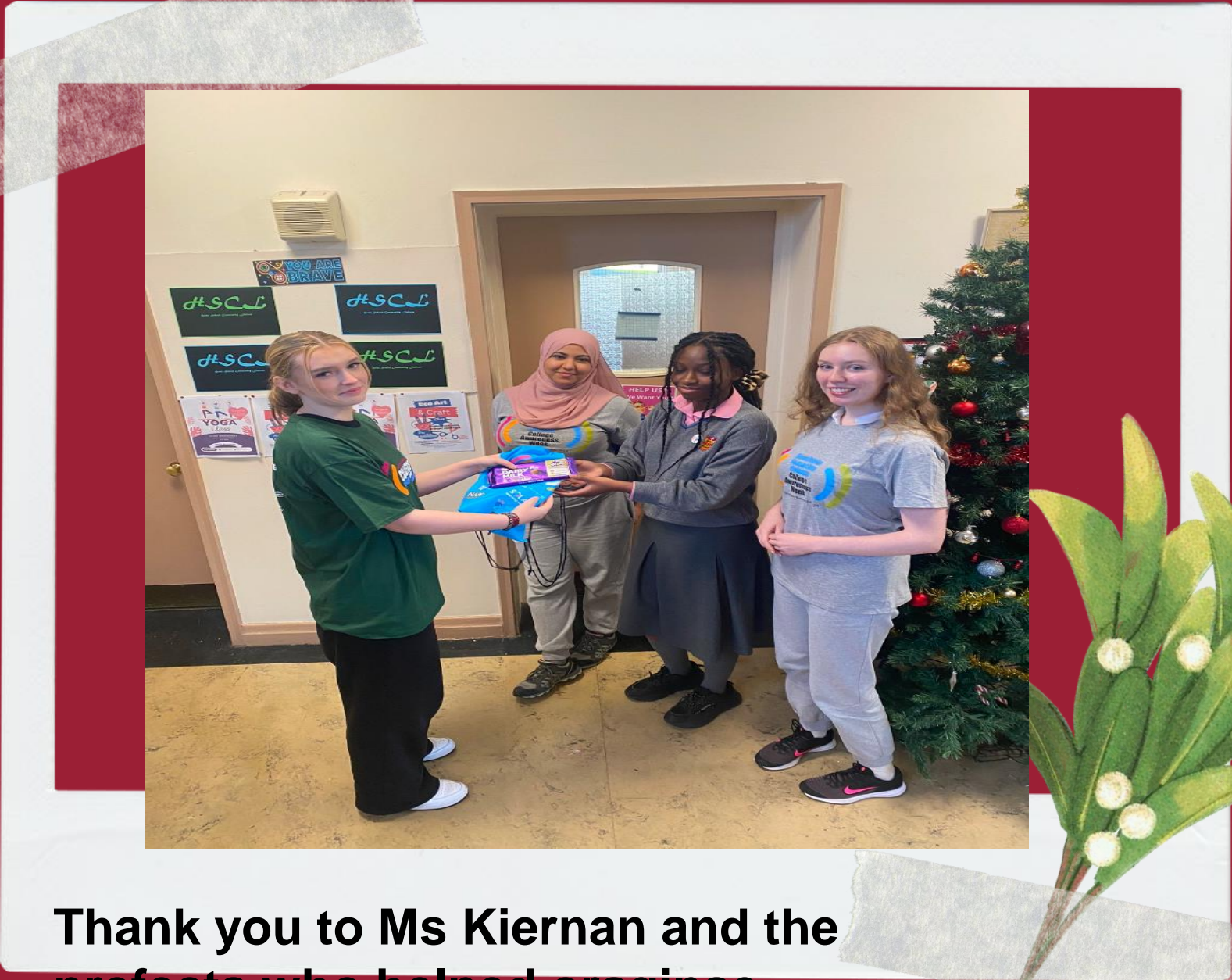
- College Awareness Week
- Junior Achievement Ireland
- 5<sup>th</sup> year Bonding Trip
- Euroscola
- Model EU Council
- Market Day
- Wellbeing Week
- Carol Singing
- School of Archaeology Visit
- National Prize Winner
- German Language and Culture tour to Munich and Salzburg
- Cultural Day
- Home School Community Liaison events



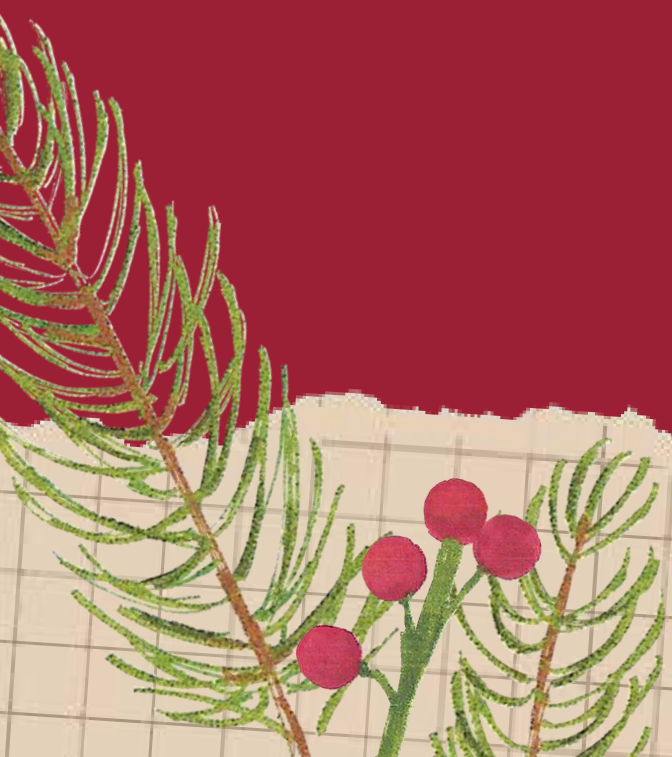




# College Awareness Week 2024

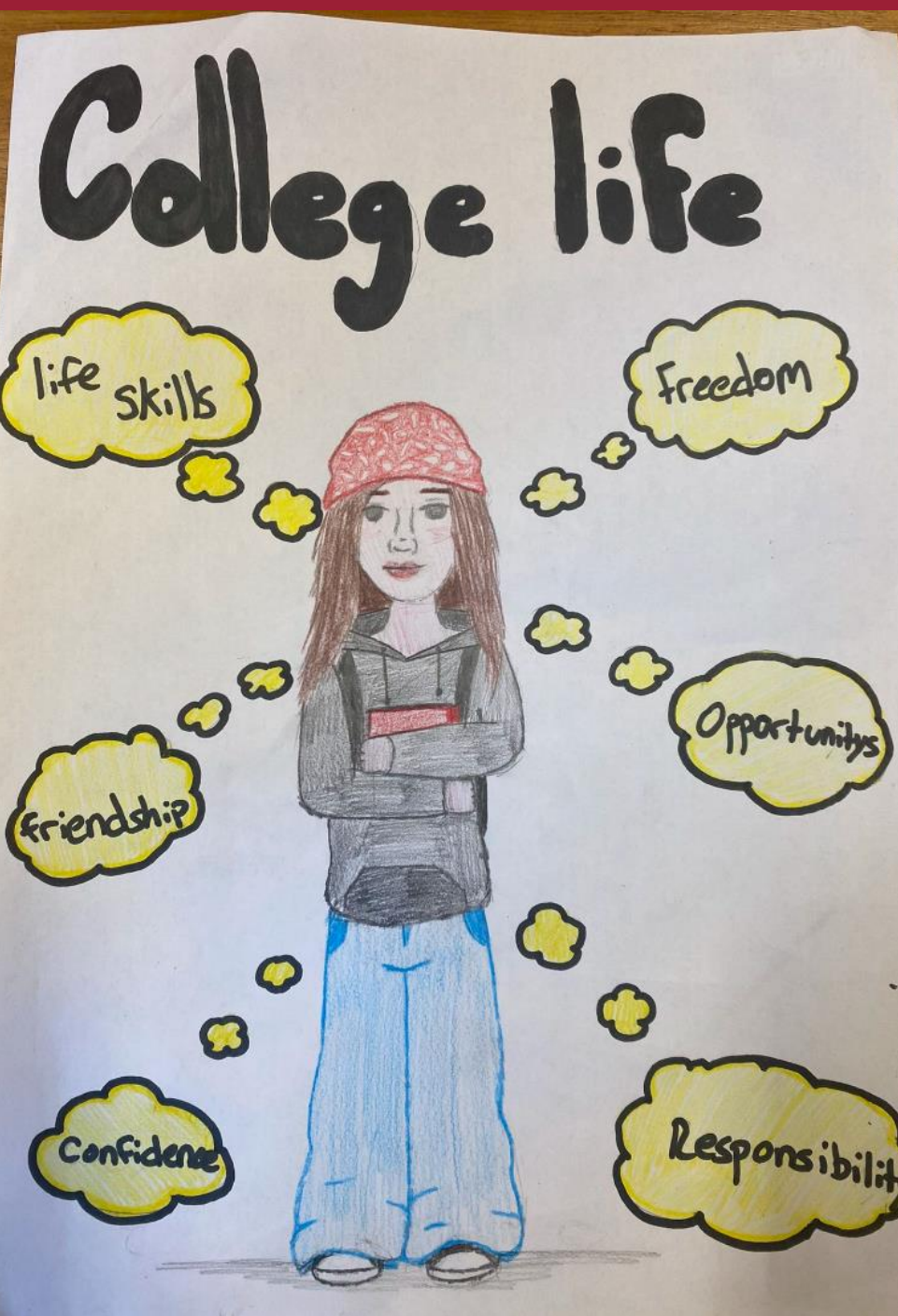


**Thank you to Ms Kiernan and the prefects who helped organize College Awareness week. Here are some of the prize winners from the week.**



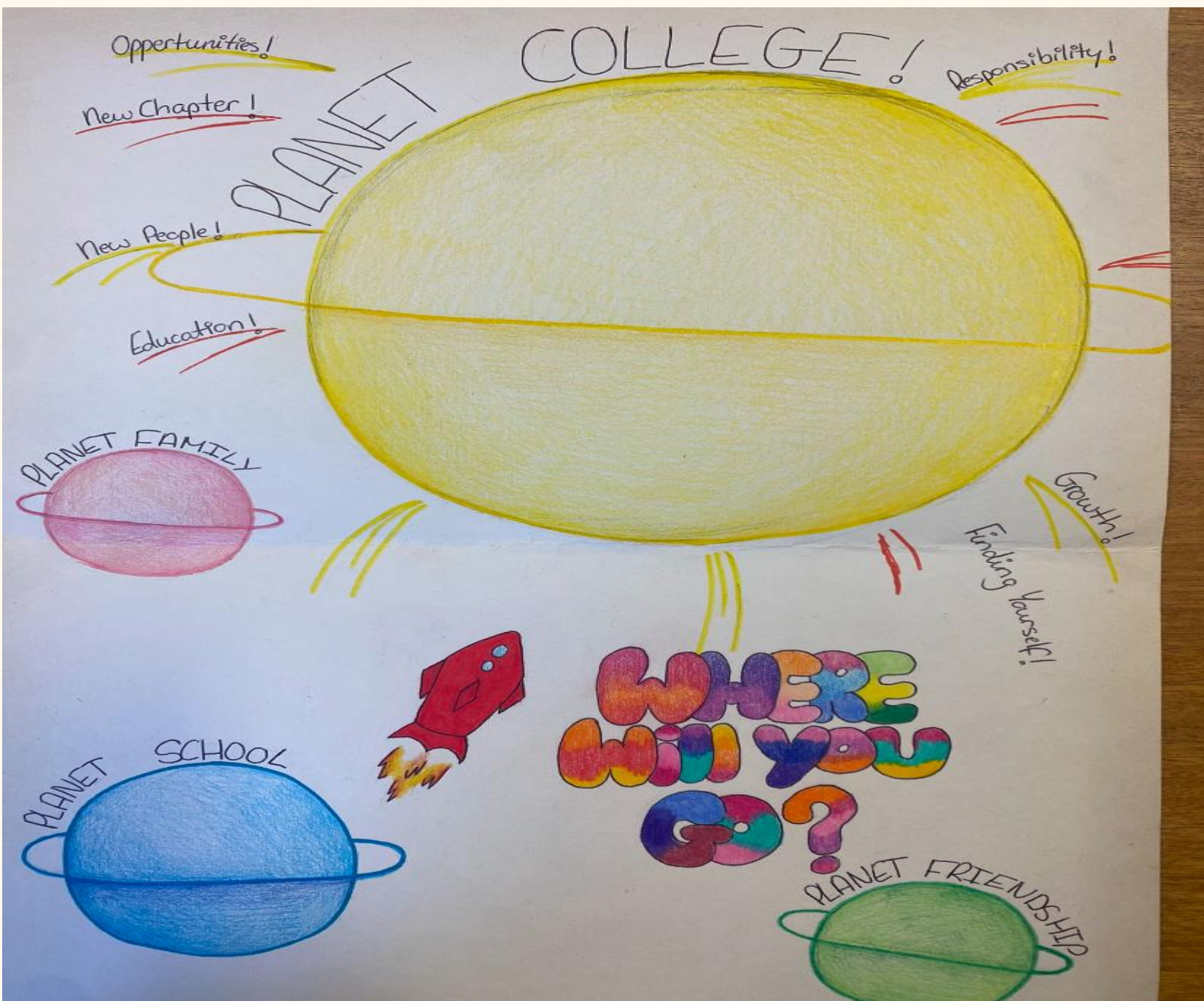
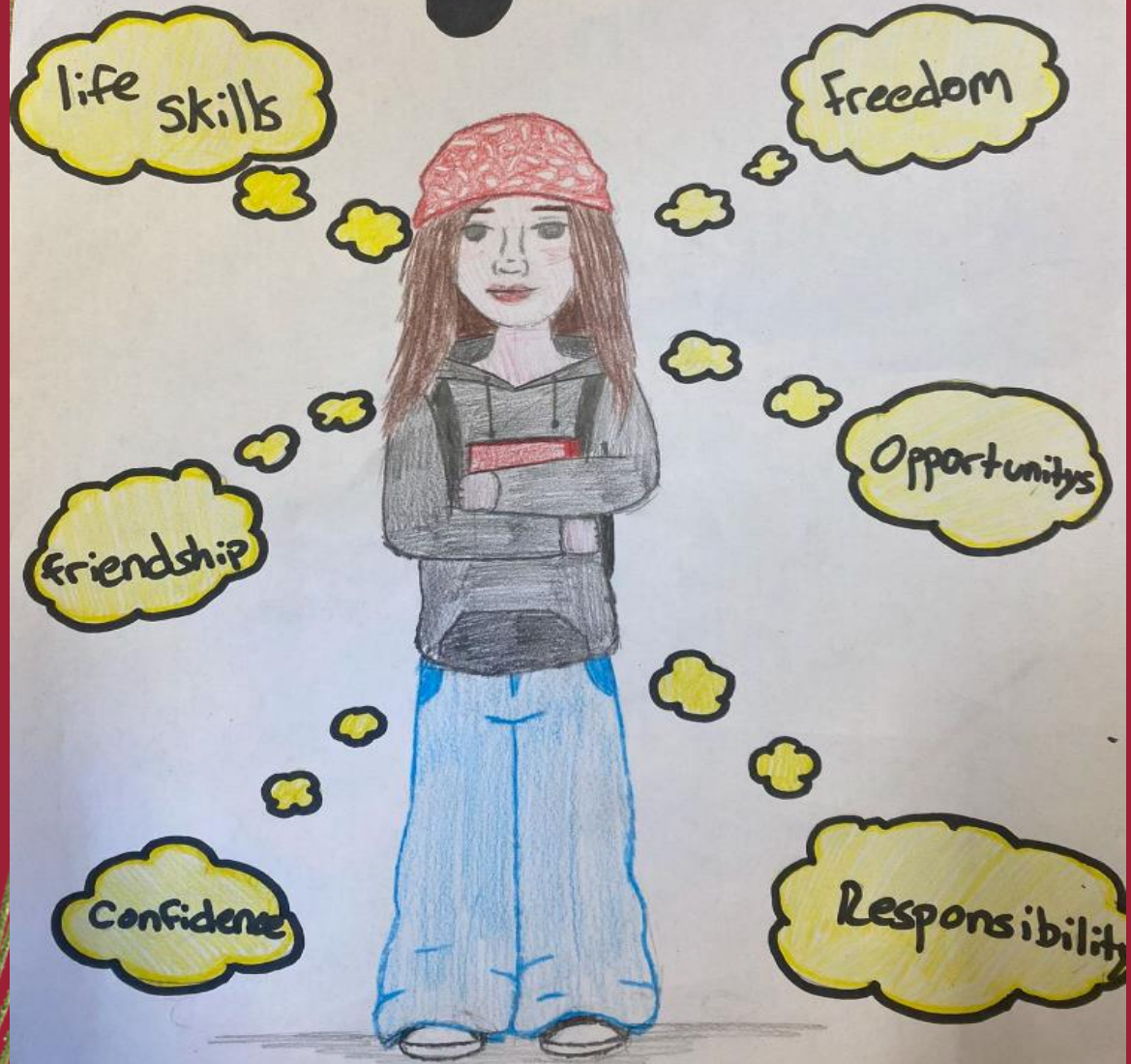


# Events that took place..





# College life







## Futurewise Junior Achievement Programme.

David Collier from Oracle kindly came in to do the Futurewise programme with our 1st year Science students. This was a three week programme in which the students learnt about the science industry and had great fun carrying out different experiments.





## Engineering Today Junior Achievement Programme.

Some of our 2nd year students took part in an Engineering workshop kindly facilitated by Pfizer and Junior Achievement. The students enjoyed taking part in activities and learning about the career of engineering







# 5th Year Bonding Trip

On the 26th of September 2024, all of our 5th Year Students travelled to Castlecomer Discovery Park, Co. Kilkenny.

Here they were able to complete teambuilding challenges as well as prepare for their LCVP portfolio.





# 5th Year Bonding Trip - Castlecomer Discovery Park, Kilkenny



## Octagon Challenge

Students completed a high ropes course.



## Zipline

In pairs, students went down the longest zipline over water in Europe!



## LCVP Talk

Students learned about what it takes to run a not-for-profit enterprise.



## Nature Walk

Students had a chance to explore the park.

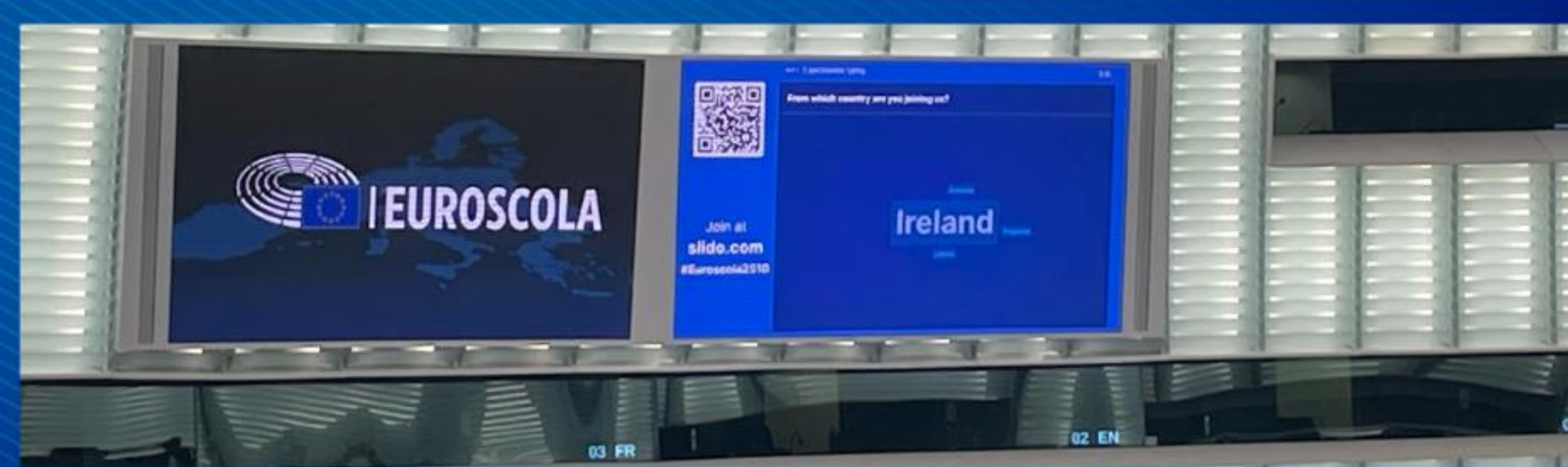


# Euroscola Strasbourg

Friday 25th October 2024







Euroscola lets students work as an **MEP** for a day! We represented Ireland as part of a group of 33 schools from 26 countries, 24 in the EU, 1 hoping to join the EU and 1 neighbouring country. Our 22 5th Year Students were the only Irish school present on the day!



**What is Euroscola?**



# Where is the European Parliament?

Strasbourg,  
France







Breakfast in the MEPs  
Restaurant

01

An Interview with EU  
Parliament Vice-President,  
Roberts Zile

03

Lunch in the MEPs  
Restaurant

05

02

A video message from  
EU Parliament President  
Roberta Metsola

04

A Question and Answer  
Session with the EU's  
top Legal Advisor

06

A debate about the  
future of democracy in  
Europe













Three of our TY students, Pandeena Buckley, Ellie Rose Gough and Pixie Ring, represented Slovakia in the Model EU Council at Eurocampus, Dublin. They joined 13 schools from all across Ireland, debating and amending a series of real world EU Proposals. They also heard Guest Speakers from the EU and the Irish Government.

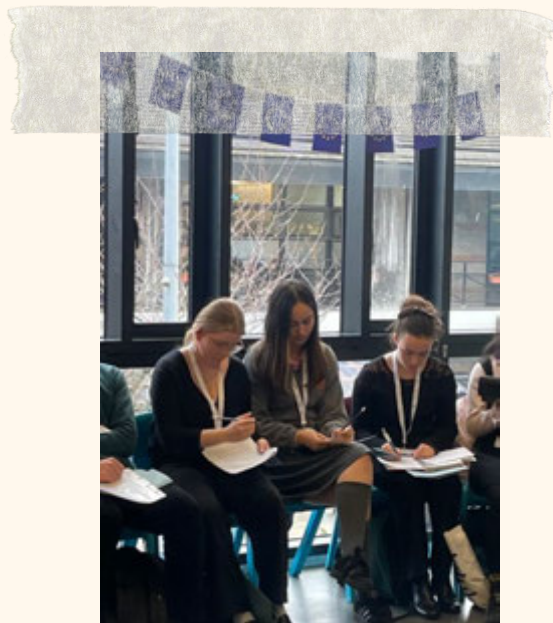


Model EU Council  
Tuesday 10th  
December 2024

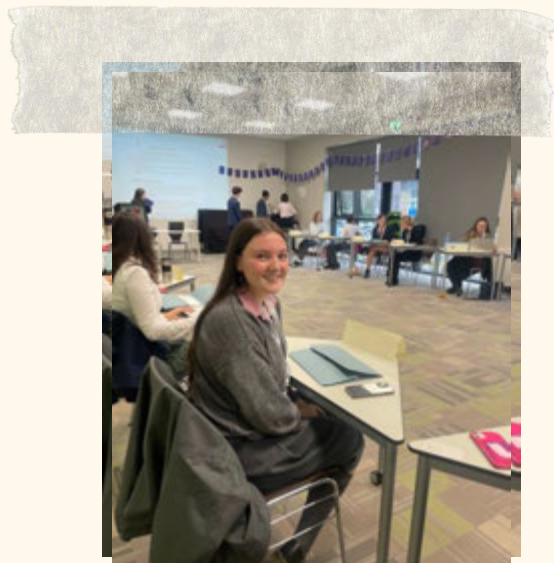


# Model EU Council

## Tuesday 10th December 2024



Democracy and Demography



Heads of State



Climate Change and Youth

Guest Speakers







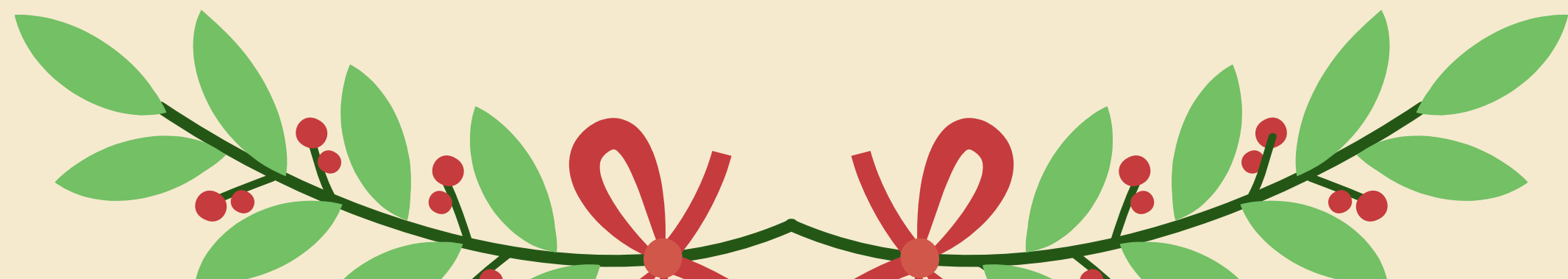
# Market Day 2024

We had an amazing day celebrating Market Day this year! The energy and enthusiasm was fantastic, making it a truly memorable event.

Special thanks to Ms Taylor's 5.2 LCVP students for organising the Christmas Market and to Ms. Doherty's 5.3 class for hosting a fantastic quiz that engaged and entertained the children from St. Fiachras.



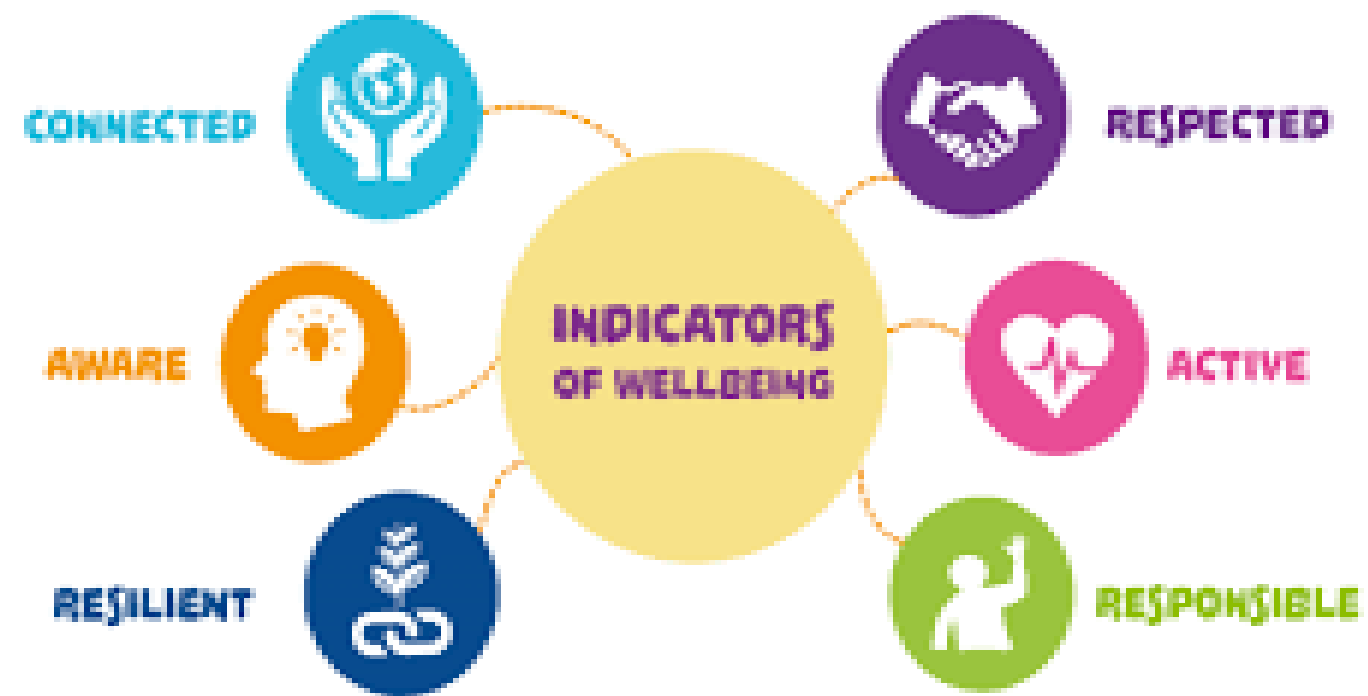
Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of Market Day; your dedication and involvement make these events special.







# Wellbeing Week





# Wellbeing Week



## Film

All students watched the film  
Storks by Dreamworks.



## Treats

All students received a treat  
at some stage during the  
week.



## Bell

The bell was replaced with a  
feel good song all week -  
check out the playlist [here](#) or  
by scanning the QR Code.



## Dance Off

We ended the week with a  
song and dance activity for  
our whole school.





# Chrimace!

With Mace Beaumont having been chosen for 'Chrimace of the year', students paid a visit to the shop to launch the celebrations, singing Christmas carols for the Beaumont community!





# Carol Singing in Northside Shopping Centre

Students paid 2 visits to Northside, carol singing for the Christmas shopping goers, with all money collected going towards the new school gym.





# Thank you to our Amazing Choir and Instrumentalists



Carol Service 2024 led by Ms Vaughan













# School of Irish Archaeology

Our 1st year History students completed an  
Archaeology workshop on 23rd of November 2024.





# Archaeology Workshop



## Introduction

Students met the two Archaeologists they would be working with that day.



## Artefacts

Students got to handle and discover both real and replica artefacts from Ireland.



## Excavation

Students got to take part in a "mini dig" to find artefacts.



## Analysis

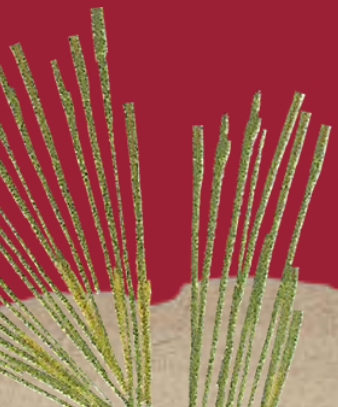
Students discussed the artefacts they uncovered.



# German Language Tour to Germany and Austria









Congratulations to Ciara Zurawska in 3rd year on winning 1st place in the Secondary Junior category of the "Show Racism the Red Card" Creative Competition! This was a national competition run by the Immigrant Council of Ireland

<https://www.immigrantcouncil.ie/news/show-racism-red-card-creative-competition-2024-winners>





## Cultural Day

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December we held our annual Cultural Day. This day showcases the diversity in our school. The ceremony began with an interfaith service to celebrate a wide range of religions. Throughout the event our students showed off their cultures and traditions through a fashion show, both group and individual dances and through music and song. This was all before we were given the opportunity to sample the culinary delights of many of the countries represented in our international buffet. We were delighted to welcome the President of DCU Darie Keogh.

Thank you to all of the teachers and students who helped make the day possible, especially Ms. Offiah, Mr Ozalp, Ms Lee and Mr Jenkins who did a lot of preparations to help make the day the success it was. Thank you to the students whom without their input the day would not be possible, a special thank you to Our Cultural Prefects Jillian Bibat, and Bushra Al Safadi and Tara Zurawska our MC for the event.

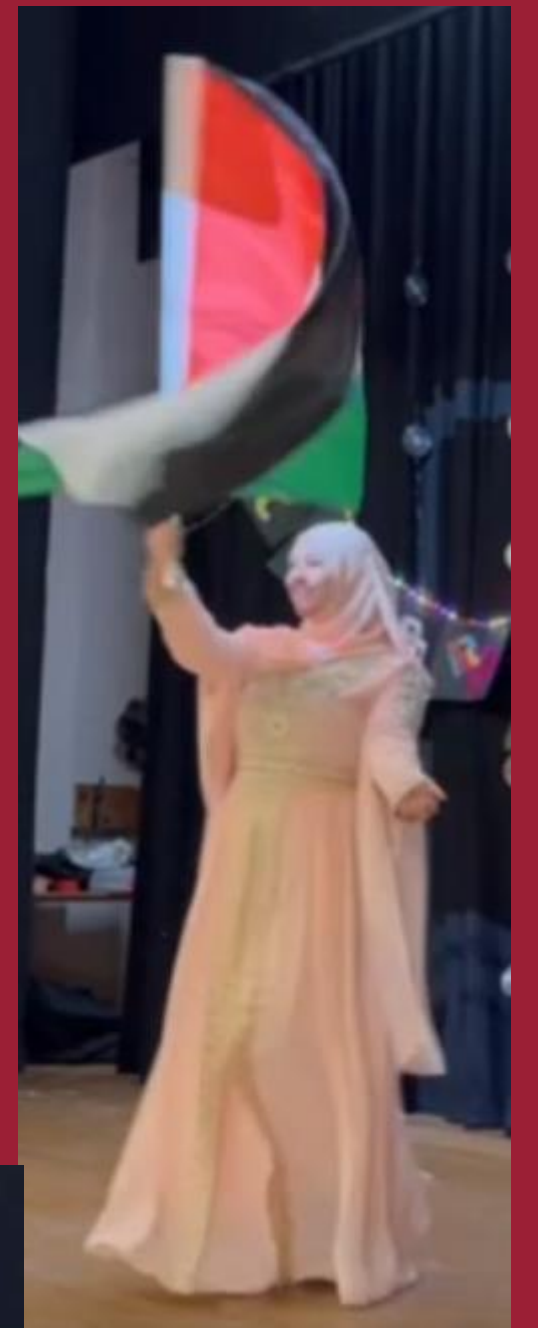
President of DCU made a very special presentation to Ms. Offiah in recognition for her outstanding contribution to celebrating cultural week over her time in Our Lady of Mercy College.













# Celebrating Academic Excellence



Best Junior Cycle Results  
2023, Alex Rayner



Best Junior Cycle Results  
2024, Lojain Elmaghrum



# Celebrating Academic Excellence



Avenna Abhram Best  
Leaving Certificate 2022 now  
studying Pharmacy



Ella Keating Best Leaving  
Certificate 2023 now studying  
Pharmacy



Abi Walsh Best Leaving  
Certificate 2024  
Now studying Sports Science



# Think Languages Week



TUD Guest  
Speaker



Trip to Maynooth  
University



TY's with their  
ami, Remi



# HSCL Classes from

September

We ran a number of classes this year so far, all aimed at increasing parental partnership with the school. The parents who came to these classes are more likely to become involved in the Parents Association and to support other highlights on the school calendar including Market Day and our Cultural Celebration at the start of December.

- An Eco Art Class - a free sustainable craft class open to all parents and grandparents
- Traditional Art/ craft Class
- Yoga class - for beginners and Intermediate practitioners.
- We had a Christmas Wreath Making workshop for the Parents just last week.

The CDETb very kindly supplied the tutors for the classes and fingers crossed they will continue into the new year.



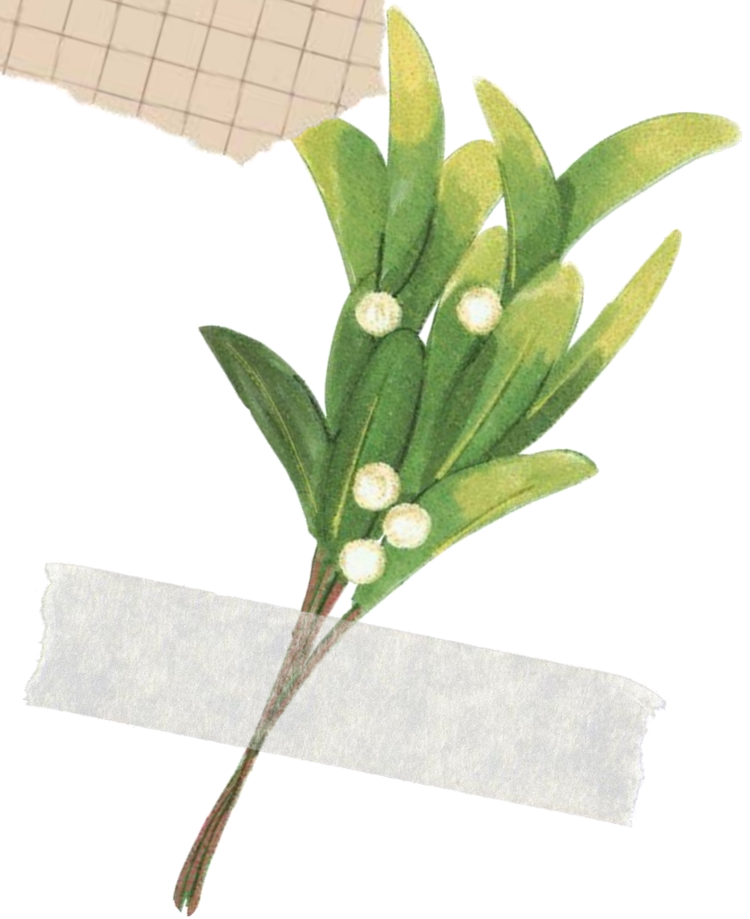
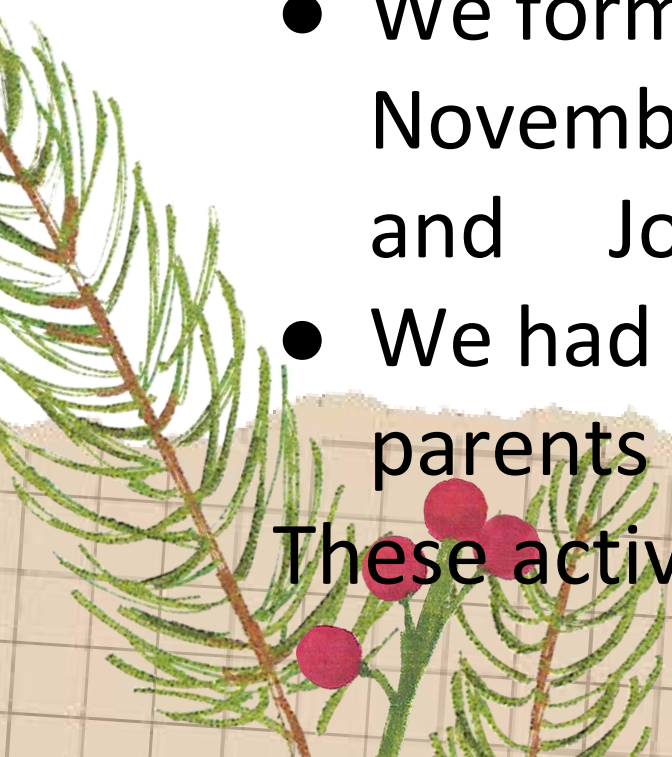




HSCCL also ran some collaborative Social events

- Coffee morning for the first year Parents to meet and greet one another in August- first day of school.
- Maths morning for first year parents with the maths department and tutors from the CDETb came too to talk about the possibilities of free education supports for the adults.
- We formed a Parents Helping Parents Group in November - this focused mainly on the Palestinian and Jordanian members of our School Community.
- We had a day of chat and beauty for a small group of parents

These activities will continue into the New Year.





# Extra And Co- Curricular Activities

- Ideal Club
- Gaelic Football
- Badminton
- Board Games
- Baking Club
- 1st Year Archaeology Workshop
- Rugby

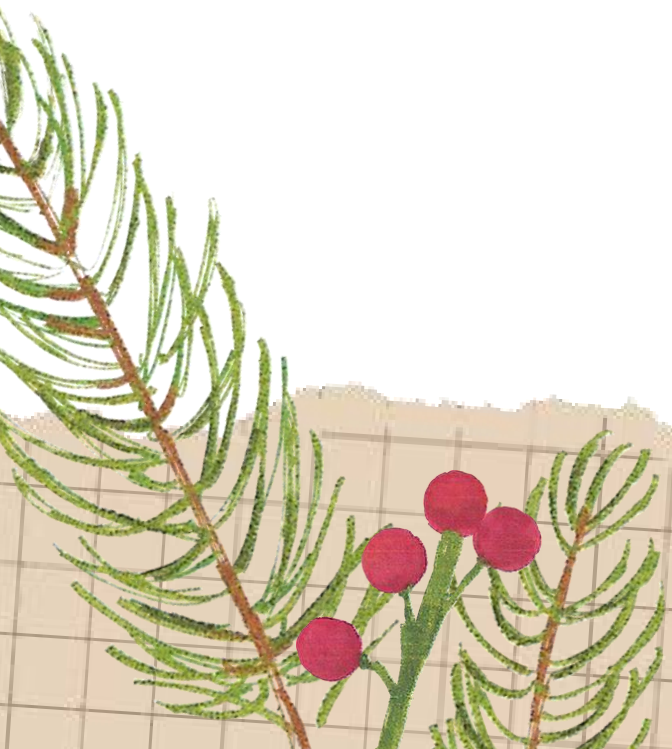






# Futsal Tournament

The Futsal tournament took place for 1st and 2nd years on Thursday 21st of November. We had three local schools involved with Dominicans and Mercy Coolock joining us. The FAI also came in to assist on the day. Mercy College drew the final against Dominicans but came out runners up when it went to penalties. A great day all around and well done to all involved.







# IDEAL Club

The theme of Stand Up Week 2024 was “Pride in Our Community”.

We completed a series of activities showing how we can come together to support one another, as allies or as members of the LGBTQ+ Community. New this year was a “paper chain of support” which is now displayed in the school, with each student writing a positive message on it.



This also tied in with our school’s Ceist Value of the year - Creating Community





Hi everyone,

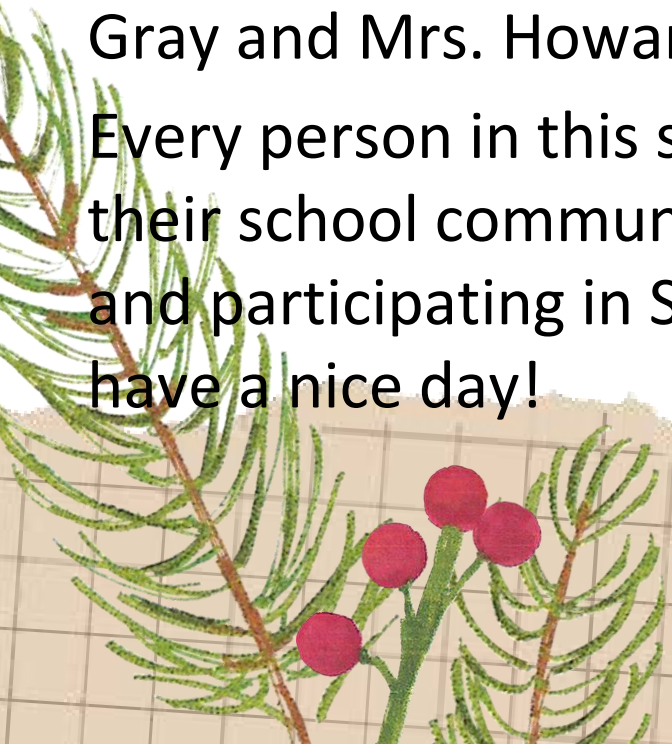
I'm so glad to see you all here today to celebrate our Stand Up Week. Stand Up Week is a very important week in our school, it is here to raise awareness to issues like bullying, discrimination and harassment. But it also encourages inclusion and empathy towards all members of our school community.

Weeks like Stand Up Week and upcoming culture week are so necessary and important so that every single member of this school community feels the support and respect they deserve.

I would like to thank Ms. Doherty and Ms. Murphy for all the hard and unseen work they do to make this week in our school a success. I would also like to thank them for all their work and help in our school's Ideal Club. And to Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Howard for their support.

Every person in this school deserves to feel the support of their school community, so thank you all for coming today and participating in Stand Up Week this year. Thank you, have a nice day!

## A Message from Our Head Girl and IDEAL Club Chairperson, Lily Massey





# Stand Up Week 2024



The Inclusion, Diversity and Equality Alliance (IDEAL Club) meets in the school Library every Friday at 1:10pm.  
**Everyone** is welcome!



# Rugby

Our Junior and Senior teams have started the new season with how they finished last season. Our Senior team have successfully won all matches to date and our junior team continue to excel in the sport in which many of them have only started playing in the last three years. With excellent skills and leadership continuously displayed on the pitch both teams have qualified for the Metro Final's at the end January





# Rugby Teams in Action



Line out against  
St. Andrews



Teni on her way  
to score a try



Juniors in Action

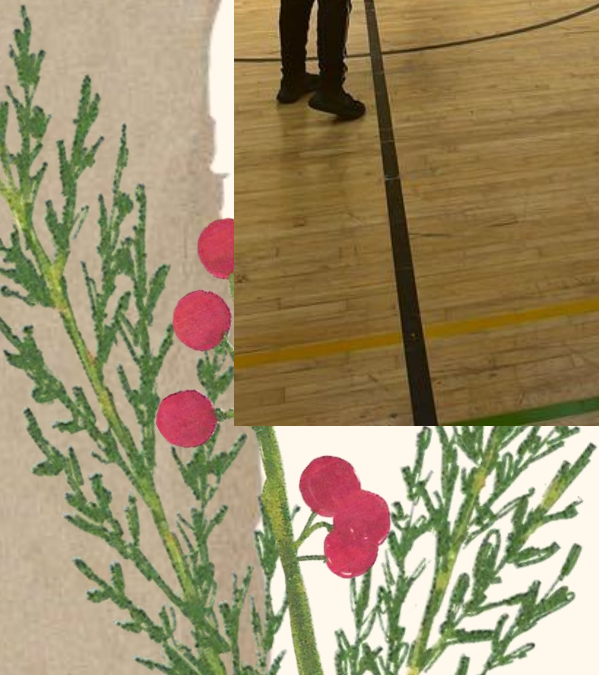


Re-grouping after  
scoring a try



# Badminton

Well done to all students who took part in badminton this year! We were delighted to see the hall full every Tuesday after school. We had so many players we even had to add on an extra training time at lunchtime! Keep up the good work and we look forward to more badminton in 2025!





# Sewing the Spirit of Christmas at Our Lady of Mercy College

Our talented first-year students at Our Lady of Mercy College have been busy creating festive felt decorations for the holiday season. They perfected their stitching skills to craft charming Christmas puddings and trees. Here's a look at their journey!

Learning the basics  
of stitching with felt.



Felt, thread, and lots  
of holiday spirit!







# A Festive Transformation



With their stitching perfected, students created unique Christmas puddings and trees with colourful embellishments. They proudly brought their decorations home to hang on their trees, adding a personal touch to their celebrations.

Handmade decorations ready to spread cheer











Proudly showing off their festive creations.





We have a wide range of extra Curricular activities in our School,  
take a look at our extra curricular calendar to see what we have  
to offer

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
			<b>Soccer</b> <b>PE Hall</b>  Ms. McAuliffe Ms. Grimes		
<b>Before School</b> 8.10 - 8.45					
<b>Lunchtime</b> 13.10 - 13.45	<b>Board games</b>  <b>Library</b>  C Howard	<b>Extension Club</b> <b>Library</b>  Mr. Ivie	<b>Chamber Choir</b>  <b>Room 5</b>  Ms Vaughan	<b>Language Club</b> <b>(French, Italian,</b> <b>German,</b> <b>Spanish)</b>  Ms. Repishti Mr. Ivie	*After School* 13.05 - 14.00 <b>IDEAL</b> <b>Library</b>  Ms. Doherty Ms. Murphy
	<b>Knitting/</b> <b>movies</b>  <b>Art Room</b>  Ms Keogh		<b>Board games</b> <b>Library</b>  Ms. Armstrong Ms. O'Mahoney		
			<b>Eco Committee</b> <b>Rm 18</b> Ms Taylor Ms Grimes Ms Rooney		





christmas



# Extra Curricular Activities



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
After School 4pm to 5pm		<b><u>Badminton</u></b> <b><u>PE Hall</u></b>  Ms. McGlinchey	<b><u>Basketball</u></b> <b><u>PE Hall</u></b>  Mr. Keaney Ms. Rogers	<b><u>Gaelic (GAA)</u></b> <b><u>Soccer Pitch</u></b>  Ms. Sherry Mr. Murphy
	<b><u>Rugby</u></b> <b><u>Soccer Pitch</u></b>  Mr. Mulvaney		<b><u>Rugby</u></b> <b><u>Soccer Pitch</u></b>  Mr. Mulvaney	<b><u>Dance</u></b> <b><u>Sports Hall</u></b>  Teacher from outside ask Ms Howard if interested
Online Clubs No day in particular	<b><u>Book Club</u></b> <b><u>Online</u></b>  Ms. Murphy  Google Classroom Code	<b><u>Creative Schools</u></b> <b><u>competitions</u></b>  Ms. Keogh		

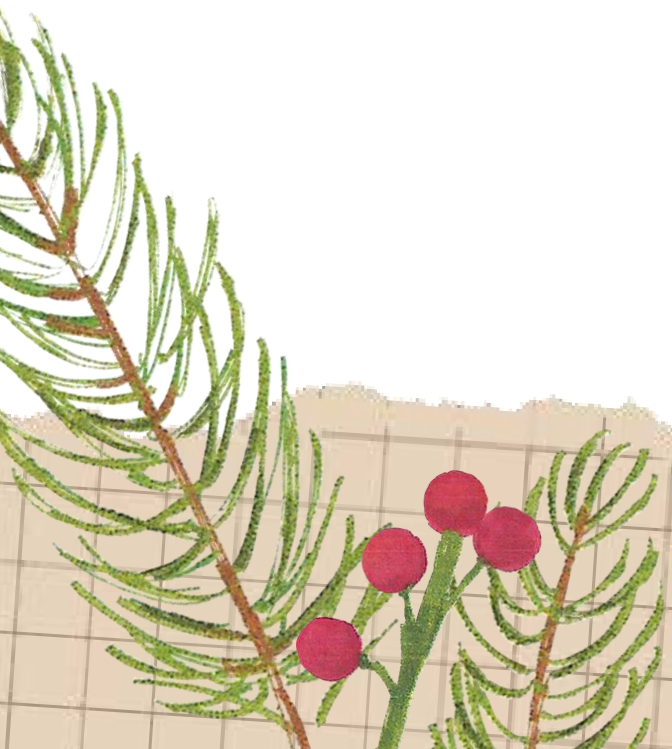




# School Promotion Video

Check out our recent video which was made in August 2024 aimed at giving you an insight into life in Our Lady of Mercy College

<https://youtu.be/qAKVRRWSMis>





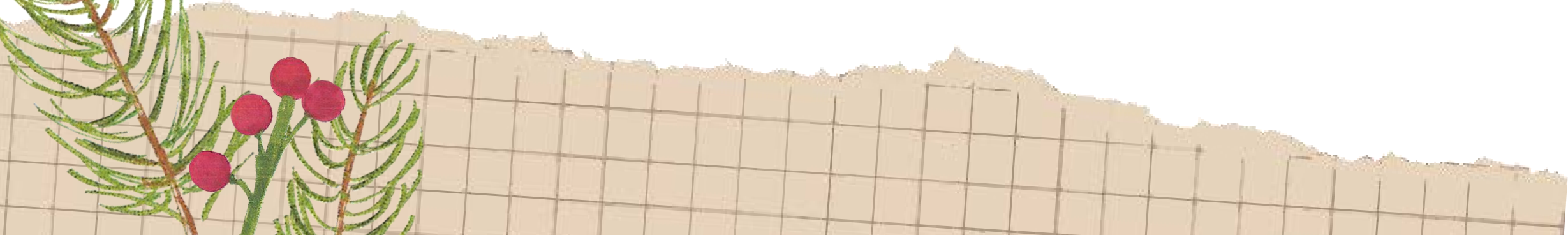


# Past Pupils Alumni

We are currently trying to establish a database of past pupils to create an Alumni. If you are interested in joining or you know any past pupils we would like to ask you sign up online on the link below or email

[alumni@mercybeaumont.com](mailto:alumni@mercybeaumont.com)

<https://mercybeaumont.ie/alumni/>





# Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2025

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of our school community a lovely break over the Christmas Holidays and best wishes for the New Year.

School Christmas reports will be available in mid January on VShare, a message will be sent out via the App along with a text message with usernames to let you know when and instructions for access.

If you need any assistance with the school App please email [support@uniqueschools.ie](mailto:support@uniqueschools.ie)

School reopens on Monday 6th of January

School website:

<https://mercybeaumont.ie/>

School Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/mercybeaumont60>

School X Account @Mercy\_Beau

