

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER



2025



Celebrating Community, Creativity & Kindness

CEIST
Catholic Education
An Irish Schools Trust

Principal's Christmas Message

Dear Students, Parents, and Staff,

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

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, who consistently go above and beyond to create a nurturing and warm learning environment for our students. Your commitment and passion are truly inspiring.

I also extend sincere thanks to our auxiliary staff for their invaluable hard work throughout the term.



To our parents and volunteers, your unwavering support and dedication are essential to making our school the exceptional learning community it is. We genuinely appreciate your involvement and partnership in our educational journey, and we acknowledge the wonderful support and contributions of the Parents Network.



A special thank you to our Deputy Principal, Ms. Ciara Howard, for her outstanding leadership and dedication to our school community. Ms. Howard's commitment to supporting both students and staff is deeply valued and appreciated.

We also acknowledge the hard work of all staff in producing the Christmas newsletter, with special thanks to Mr. Rodin Ozalp and Ms. Ciara Howard for their dedication to this endeavor. We recognise the invaluable guidance of CEIST and the Board of Management in supporting our school's operations.



To our wonderful students, a heartfelt thank you for engaging wholeheartedly with your learning and being enthusiastic participants in the many extracurricular activities that enrich our school life each week. Your energy, curiosity, and contributions make Our Lady of Mercy College the vibrant community it is.



As we approach the festive season, I wish you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on January 5th, 2026, for our second term, ready to embrace new challenges and opportunities together.

Every good wish
Ms. Maura Gray



Student Council



Student Council Connect Desk Launch

The Student Council successfully launched its new Connect Desk on Market Day. This initiative provides students with a dedicated space to share ideas, raise concerns and offer suggestions directly with council representatives.

The response from students was very positive, with many taking the opportunity to engage in open and respectful conversations. The Connect Desk reflects the Council's ongoing commitment to student voice and active participation in school life. Further sessions are planned for the coming term.

Student Council Elves – Spreading Festive Cheer

- In the lead-up to Christmas exams, the Student Council brought some much-needed festive spirit to the school. Students were delighted to discover hidden candy canes around the building, with a small number of lucky finds including a homework pass.
- During the final week before exams, the Council also provided free hot chocolate and music in the Concert Hall, creating a relaxed and welcoming space for students. These thoughtful initiatives helped lift spirits during a busy time of year and were warmly received across the school.



STUDENT COUNCIL ELVES SPREAD SOME FESTIVE CHEER

1 HOMEWORK PASSES



2 HOT CHOCOLATE



3 TREATS & SWEETS



STUDENT COUNCIL VISITS CATHERINE MCAULEY NURSING HOME

Members of the Student Council enjoyed their annual visit to Catherine McAuley Nursing Home, where they spent a meaningful afternoon with residents in the lead-up to Christmas. Students delivered heartfelt Christmas letters written by our First Year students, which were warmly received and greatly appreciated.

The visit was filled with tea, conversation and laughter, as students and residents shared stories and enjoyed each other's company. It was a lovely opportunity for our students to connect with the wider community and to reflect the Mercy values of kindness, compassion and service.

We would like to sincerely thank the staff at Catherine McAuley Nursing Home for their warm welcome and hospitality, and our First Year students for the thought and care they put into their letters.



MEET YOUR PREFECTS

Our Prefect team has been working hard across many aspects of school life since September, showing commitment and leadership in their roles. Throughout the term, Prefects have supported and organised a range of initiatives that have contributed positively to the school community.

Science Prefects hosted a lunchtime movie and quiz, Maths Prefects organised a popular "How Many Skittles in the Jar?" competition, and the IDEAL Prefects led a successful bracelet-making workshop.

All of our Prefects have contributed greatly to school life this term, and we look forward to their continued involvement and the exciting plans they have for the new year.



Ember Faith Leaders

Thirteen of our Fifth Year students are leading the Ember Faith Leadership Programme in our school this year. The initial focus of the team is to support the transition of incoming First Year students into the school community.

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

Students began their work with a three-day leadership training retreat in Ovoca Manor in September. As part of Mercy Week, they led a range of activities including a treasure hunt, supporting RE lessons with First Year students on the history of the school and Catherine McAuley, and organising a walk to the convent in Beaumont Woods.

In October, the students organised Halloween-themed activities for First and Second Years, including a lunchtime film with treats for First Years and Halloween games in advance of the midterm break.

In November, the team was involved in the school's Remembrance Service and Advent services, which took place in the Oratory on Friday mornings leading up to Christmas. They also organised the Christmas Carol Service and decorations for the whole school. In addition, the team ran a very successful fundraiser on Market Day, raising over €450 for St. Francis Hospice.

We extend our sincere thanks to the students involved for the positive impact they continue to make in promoting the Christian spirit of our school.

Ember Activities



EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Mr Hyland established a newly formed and very popular Dungeons & Dragons lunchtime club this term. The club has welcomed students from across a wide spectrum of the school community and has provided a positive and inclusive space for students to engage, collaborate and enjoy shared interests.



Launch of Inclusion, Diversity and Equality Alliance (IDEAL) Club Student Leaders Board



Stand Up Week 2025



College Awareness Week 2025



Pieta House Fundraiser and Amber Flag 2025



Sixth Year English Trip – Macbeth at the IFI

Sixth Year English students attended a screening of Macbeth at the Irish Film Institute as part of their Leaving Certificate studies. The visit provided students with the opportunity to engage with a contemporary interpretation of Shakespeare's play and to deepen their understanding of key themes, characters and dramatic techniques.

The outing supported classroom learning and offered a valuable cultural experience, encouraging critical reflection and discussion in preparation for the Leaving Certificate examinations.



Mental Health Awareness Week 2025: Staff and Student winning entries! Linda our secretary and Siobhan McCoy.



MEANINGFUL MOMENTS COMPETITION



Capture a moment that matters to you

Share a photo of a special time—big or small—that brings you joy. It could be a family dinner, a team win, finishing a project, or a birthday celebration.

Deadline: Friday 10 October
Winner announced: Monday



Mental Health Awareness Week Meaningful moments entries.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

ACTIVITIES

MERCY BEAUMONT MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

6–10 October

World Mental Health Day is 10 October.
Join us for a week of events to celebrate
mental health and wellbeing.

MONDAY KICK-OFF

- Amber Committee intercom address
- Staff Quiz (lunchtime) with prizes & treats

ALL WEEK

- Meaningful Moments Photo Competition
- My Little Book of Wellbeing: Each student gets a copy; staff copies in my locker
- Mindful walk
- Short PowerPoints: Mental Health Awareness & Mindfulness

FRIDAY FINALE – FUNDRAISER

- Inside Out Day for Pieta House: Wear clothes inside out to show that feelings inside aren't always seen
- €2 donation supports Pieta House & our Amber Flag application
- Amber Team give out Love Hearts sweets at small

INSIDE OUT DAY

Supporting Pieta House



Sometimes the feelings on the inside aren't visible on the outside.

10TH OCTOBER

Wear your clothes inside out to show that mental health matters.

♥ Suggested donation: €2

All proceeds go to Pieta House to support mental health and suicide prevention. Pieta House



Badminton



The PE hall was a hive of activity every Tuesday after school and on Wednesday at lunchtime, with students regularly attending badminton sessions to practise and develop their skills. This term, significant emphasis was placed on learning and applying the rules of the game, which students embraced with enthusiasm.

Students demonstrated strong progress and enjoyed many competitive matches throughout the term. Badminton has proven to be a very popular activity, and we look forward to continuing the programme in the new year.



Basketball



Our Junior Team recorded two wins during the group stages and showed clear development in their skills over the course of the season. While they did not progress beyond the group phase, there is strong potential to build on this experience in the year ahead.



Our Senior Team enjoyed a very successful season, progressing through the group stages with five wins from six games. This achievement saw them reach our first Dublin final in many years. The team delivered an excellent performance in a tightly contested final, narrowly missing out after a superb display. We are extremely proud of their commitment, teamwork, and achievements this season.

U19 MVPs

Laura Horba

Sandy Quadri



Sandy scored 34 of our 54 points against Mount Carmel. She consistently took the lead in play, contributing key assists and interceptions throughout the game.



Laura scored 9 points in the Quarter Final, including an excellent three-pointer, before calmly converting the winning shot with 10 seconds remaining on the clock.

Ferwela Begashaw



In the semi-final against Scoil Caitríona, Ferwela scored two crucial three-pointers, helping to secure our place in the final.

Dublin Schools U19 Basketball – Runners Up

Year	Name
6	Sandy Quadri
4	Julianna Haughey
6	Louise Ybanez
5	Jasmine Paseos
6	Alyssa Mae Calaparan
6	Purity Odeon
6	Michelle Osei Bansu
6	Prayer Onakoya
6	Glenda Oduwa
6	Teni Onigbode
6	Laura Horba
6	Nhu Y Bui
6	Ferwela Begashaw

Our U19 basketball team had an excellent Dublin Schools campaign, finishing the season as Runners Up. The team showed great commitment and teamwork throughout the competition, progressing to the final with strong performances. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are very proud of the students involved.



Rediscovery Centre Upcycling Workshop

A Rediscovery Centre upcycling workshop took place in association with the RELOVE Sustainable Fashion Competition, involving members of the Eco-Committee and competition participants. Students explored creative ways to reuse materials while developing practical skills and a deeper awareness of sustainability and responsible consumption.



Official Opening of the Fitness Suite



Leaving Certificate Art

Still Life Inspired by the School Oratory

This Leaving Certificate still life artwork was inspired by objects from the school oratory. Students explored tone, colour, composition, and stained-glass effects to create thoughtful and visually striking final pieces.



ART

Presentation of a Framed Artwork to Our Principal, Ms Gray

A framed artwork, created by students, was presented to our Principal, Ms Gray, as a gesture of appreciation and thanks for her leadership and support of the Arts in our school.



ART

“A Day in the Life” – School Greeting Card Artwork

This school greeting card artwork, titled “A Day in the Life”, was created by Sophie Postek (TY). The design reflects everyday school life and was selected for use as an official school greeting card.



Co-Curricular and School Events

History – Archaeology Workshop

In November, our 1st Year students took part in an archaeology workshop on the school grounds. They applied their classroom learning to a hands-on excavation experience, developing key historical skills while engaging in a realistic archaeological dig.



Internet Safety

Barnardos and Google

A group of students attended the Barnardos Online Safety Programme Annual Conference at Google HQ in Dublin. The event focused on digital wellbeing and online safety, with insights from young people, educators and industry experts on supporting children in the online world.



Market Day Fundraising – Bake Sale

In late September 2025, 1st Year, 2nd Year and TY students organised and ran a bake sale as part of their preparation for Market Day. Working in teams, students planned and baked cupcakes, cookies, brownies and lots of tasty treats, shared costs, labelled ingredients and allergens, set prices, and managed sales on the day. The activity provided a practical introduction to enterprise, teamwork and financial planning, while raising funds to support their Market Day projects.



Market Day 2025

Category Winners

Market Day 2025, held on Wednesday 26th November, was a vibrant and highly successful event, showcasing the creativity, teamwork and enterprise skills of our students across all year groups. Students demonstrated excellent planning, collaboration and imagination through a wide range of innovative products and festive stalls. We were also delighted to welcome pupils from St. Fiachra's Junior School, whose visit added greatly to the atmosphere of the day.

With Santa, The Grinch, face painting, a snow machine and a hot chocolate stand, the festive spirit was evident throughout, making it a memorable experience for all involved.



Market Day 2025 A Brilliant Day in Mercy Beaumont

Our students shone with imagination, teamwork and festive energy.



WE ARE DELIGHTED TO CONGRATULATE THE
FOLLOWING CATEGORY WINNERS:

Junior Category Winners



Chelsea Kabamba, Layla Noonan, Ava McCann, Indi Ivers



Intermediate Category Winners

Y Kozy Corner

Mia O'Brien, Jazmyne Byas, Sara Seslija, Megan O'Neill



Senior Category Winners



Alana Mulcahy, Ruby Moore, Julia Flood



On 23rd March 2026, the winning groups will go on to represent Our Lady of Mercy College, Beaumont at the Dublin Student Enterprise Competition. We wish them every success as they continue their enterprise journey.

Market Day Choir



Festive Sewing and Baking in Home Economics

Students in Home Economics enjoyed festive sewing and baking activities in the lead-up to Christmas. Through these practical lessons, students developed key skills while creating seasonal projects in a creative and supportive classroom environment.



Transition Year Highlights

Learning, Leadership and Performance

Transition Year students had a strong and varied programme of learning opportunities this term, with a particular focus on European citizenship, debate and collaboration.

Model EU Council Debate 2025

Our TY students took part in the Model EU Council Debate 2025, engaging in structured debate and discussion on key European issues. The experience developed students' confidence, critical thinking, public speaking and teamwork, while giving them valuable insight into how decision-making operates at EU level.



European Parliament Ambassador Schools Programme – Cross-Border Trip

As part of the European Parliament Ambassador Schools Programme, six TY students travelled to Derry / Londonderry to meet with students from nine other schools across the island of Ireland.

Students worked collaboratively on peacebuilding and reconciliation projects, building meaningful connections and developing a deeper understanding of shared history and citizenship.



Derry Trip: Walking Tour and Irish Dancing

1st–3rd December 2025

During their stay in Derry, students took part in a guided walking tour, learning about the city's history and cultural significance. The visit also included an evening of Irish dancing, giving students an opportunity to experience local traditions in a lively and engaging setting.



Workshops, Discussions and Q&A Sessions

Students participated in a range of interactive workshops and discussion sessions, engaging directly with EU leaders, politicians, youth organisations, the John & Pat Hume Foundation, and representatives from participating schools.

These sessions encouraged thoughtful questioning, respectful dialogue, and a stronger understanding of democracy, leadership and active citizenship.



Derry, 1st to 3rd December 2025



Back (L to R):
Ms C Doherty,
Emily Bassett,
Alana Stasiunaite Mulcahy,
Ciara Zurowska

Front (L to R):
Cori Malone Reid,
Kathleen Funchion MEP,
Julia Munoz Flood,
Ms Y Murphy

Participants from Our Lady of Mercy College Beaumont taking part in workshops and discussions alongside students from schools across Ireland.



TY Musical 2025–26



Our TY students are busy preparing this year's musical production.



Save the date for 26th March 2026 — more details to follow.



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.

In October, 18 of our 5th Years received Bronze or Silver awards in the Parish on the Feast of Pope Saint John Paul II in a wonderful celebration of their faith activities in TY. Well done to all.

16 of our TY's have chosen to take on the Award and have been working on our November Remembrance Service and Advent Prayer Services. After Christmas they will be working with the local Primary school mentoring 2nd class pupils for First Holy Communion.



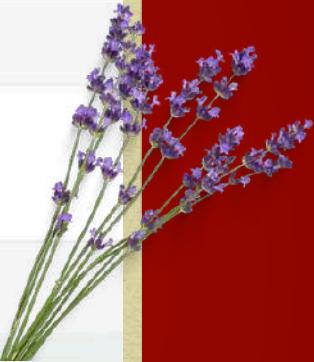


POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD

TY 2025-26



Melissa Abraham	Julia Munoz Flood
Cheryl Adeleke	Ania O'Brien
Emily Bassett	Savannah Pinez
Angelina Chykanchii	Sophie Postek
Ellie Donnelly	Alana Stasiunaite Mulcahy
Bea Kristine Ibarra	Johanna Tony
Oluwabunmi Omphile Kwenamore	Laura Turner
Ruby Moore	Ciara Zurawska





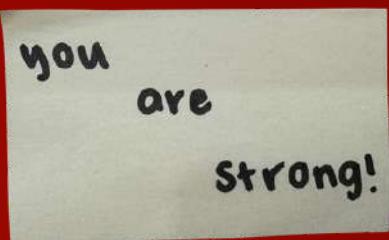
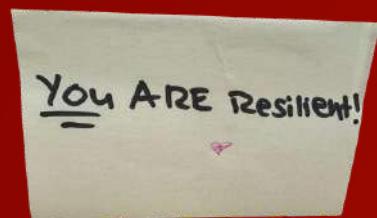
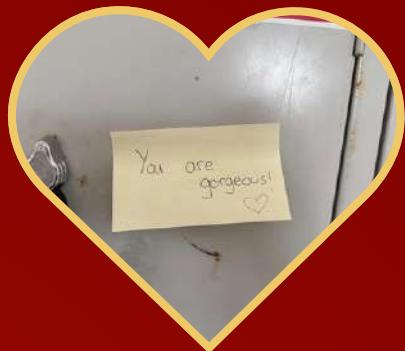
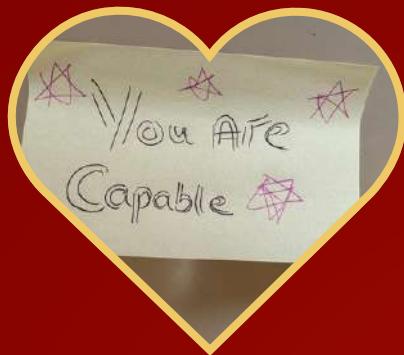
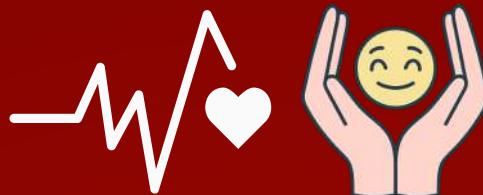
POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD





Wellbeing Week 2025

=YOU ARE=
Enough



As part of Wellbeing Week 2025, the Wellbeing Team — Ms Gray, Ms Murphy, Ms O'Hora, Ms Flynn and Ms Daly — enlisted the support of Transition Year and Fifth-Year students to share messages of positivity across the school on Monday. The initiative was warmly received by students and staff alike and created a genuinely uplifting moment within the school community, highlighting the positive impact of kindness and peer connection.

First-Year Letters to Pope Leo

As part of their Junior Cycle Religious Education studies with Ms O'Hora, First-Year students were invited to write letters to Pope Leo, reflecting thoughtfully on their faith and values in keeping with the school's Catholic ethos. We are delighted to confirm that the letters have arrived safely in Vatican City.

The letter-writing task also supported the development of students' written communication skills, encouraging them to express personal beliefs, questions and reflections in a respectful and purposeful way. This meaningful experience allowed students to engage personally with their faith while recognising their connection to the wider Catholic Church.

