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## 6th Year Newsletter – Term 1, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we come to the end of Term 1, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on what has been a very busy, productive, and positive start to the school year for our 6th Year students. The group have shown great maturity, commitment, and school spirit as they continue their final year in Coláiste na Mí.

### Academic Focus and Student Support

The term began with our Academic Review Meetings, during which every 6th Year student met individually with a member of senior management, their Year Head, Guidance Counsellor, or Caomhnoir. These five-minute meetings gave students the chance to reflect on their results, outline their goals for next year, and identify the steps needed to achieve them. We will repeat this process after the mock exams to monitor progress and provide further support.

Students also took part in a Study Skills Seminar led by Inón McCabe, who provided excellent advice on how to study effectively and maintain balance throughout the year. Each student left with a completed study plan, helping them establish strong routines early on.

Our Supervised Study programme continues to run successfully, and it's fantastic to see so many students making the most of this structured environment. There's still time to join next term — it runs Monday to Thursday and is a great way to build consistent study habits.

There are after-school support classes in Maths and Business along with the Maths Support Club, which takes place every Tuesday. These sessions provide valuable opportunities for extra help and revision, and we encourage all students to attend where relevant.

To help students stay informed, a dedicated 6th Year Notice Board has been created, displaying CAO dates, project deadlines, supervised study details, and other key updates.

## **Student Leadership and Voice**

One of the early highlights of Term 1 was the Student Council election process, which saw two representatives elected from each 6th Year class following very close votes. Well done to all who put their names forward.

Following this, students delivered Cinnire Rang speeches in front of the entire year group as part of the election of the Cinnirí Sinsear to the Comhairle na Daltaí. Each speaker demonstrated confidence, preparation, and pride in representing their peers — they should all be commended for their leadership and contribution to the student voice in our school.

## **Trips and Learning Beyond the Classroom**

Our LCA2 students enjoyed a fantastic trip to Causey Farm early in the year, taking part in team-building and hands-on activities that helped strengthen relationships within the group.

On Thursday, September 18th, our Construction Studies and LCA2 students attended WorldSkills Ireland at the RDS. This national event celebrates excellence in practical and vocational skills and showcases pathways into apprenticeships and future careers. It was a great opportunity for students to see the wide range of possibilities available to them after school.

As part of our commitment to supporting students in planning their futures, all 6th Year students had the opportunity last year to visit the campuses of Maynooth University and Dublin City University (DCU) during 5th Year. These trips were organised specifically to give students valuable insight into university life and the range of courses available, while also minimising disruption to their studies during 6th Year.

While we are mindful of the busy nature of this exam year, we encourage students to attend third-level open days and campus visits that take place on Saturdays wherever possible. Experiencing a campus firsthand can play a key role in helping students make informed decisions about their post-school options.

## **Parent–Teacher Meeting and Communication**

Thank you to all parents and guardians who attended our Parent–Teacher Meeting on October 14th. Your commitment and support play a vital role in your child's success during this important year. Reports will be issued before Christmas, providing an overview of progress and effort across all subjects.

We are also looking forward to welcoming parents to the upcoming 6th Year Information Evening on Tuesday, November 25th, where we will discuss exam preparation, wellbeing, and post-school pathways.

## Attendance and Punctuality

At Coláiste na Mí, regular and punctual school attendance is valued as essential for every student's educational success and personal development.

If your child is absent, please submit a note through our Compass system to explain the absence. A short video tutorial on how to do this can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r584sR9wiJA>

There is a strong link between attendance and attainment, and we encourage full attendance where possible.

## Digital Tools for Learning

Coláiste na Mí has purchased access to ExamRevision.ie for every student, providing a valuable online resource to support exam preparation. Each student has been given a personal username and password to log in. In addition, students can make use of the IXL App for Maths revision and skills practice. This interactive tool helps reinforce key mathematical concepts and allows students to work independently at their own pace. Both platforms are fully funded by the school and are designed to support structured, independent study at home

Also, all 6th Year students should now have access to the Compass App, using their school email and password. This app allows students and parents to keep track of attendance, timetables, homework, and school announcements — it's a key communication tool for staying informed throughout the year.

## SPHE Overview

SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) is an important part of your child's learning that helps them develop the knowledge, skills and values they need to make healthy and informed choices in life. During the coming terms our SPHE program will focus on **Drugs and Alcohol Education** from **3rd November to 19th December**, helping students understand the effects and risks of substance use and how to make safe, responsible decisions. Later in the school year, from **23rd February to 17th April**, we will cover **Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)**, which supports children in developing respect for themselves and others while learning about growing up, relationships, and emotional wellbeing. These lessons are delivered in a sensitive, age-appropriate way and play a key role in helping students build confidence and make positive choices for their future. These dates and links to resources associated with said topics will be communicated through letters in the lead up to the teaching and learning of these programs.

## Sport and Extra-Curricular Life

Our senior sports teams have made a brilliant start to the year. The Senior Soccer Team remain unbeaten in Division One of the North Leinster competition, recording two entertaining wins — a 7–4 victory over Lusk CC and a 4–2 win against Ardgillan CC.

The Senior Gaelic and Senior Basketball teams have also recorded strong early wins in their competitions. We are proud of the dedication shown by our athletes and coaches, and we encourage all students to remain active in school sports and clubs as part of a healthy, balanced routine.

## Mid-Term Revision Week

The Mid-Term Revision Week provides an ideal opportunity for students to engage meaningfully with the work completed so far this year. Each department has assigned targeted revision material and activities to help students consolidate learning and prepare for upcoming assessments.

Subject	Work assigned	Expected Engagement
Irish HL	Revise ALL 5 poems orally, Revise An Ghaeilge Aiste and Daoine Óga Aiste and An Timpeallacht Aiste	3 hrs
English HL	Exam question assigned on teams. Revision as per study plan.	2-3hrs
Maths HL	Exam Papers	2-3hrs
Maths OL	Exam Papers	2-3hrs
Spanish	2025 DEB complete mock paper including aural	3-3.5 hours
History	RSR source 2	3-4 hours
Geography	Exam papers	2 hours
Biology	Exam questions (assignment 7) - Enzymes & create resources	2 hours
Business	Unit 1 Exam focus, 25% of LC. 6 x past questions.	2-3 hours.
DCG	Output 1 & Output 2 of LC Project due on return	3-4 hours min.
Construction	Design section of portfolio	3-4 hours min.
Music	Revision worksheet given in class	2 hours.
Art HL	Visual Studies (Theory) 1. Revise all LC HL Key Terms sheet in Art History hardback. 2. Revise all in chapter on Modernity Eduard Manet. 3. Revise Impressionists artists Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Auguste Renoir and 3 of their paintings. 4. Revise Post Impressionism artists of Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin, Vincent Van Gogh.	3-4 hours.
Politics	Media and Citizen journalism Essay & 2022 Short questions	2-3 hours
Technology	Complete 3 designs all labelled and coloured. Pick 1 and finalise measurements	2 hours.

We encourage students to make the most of this time, setting goals, following their study plans, and maintaining a good balance between rest and productive study.

## Looking Ahead

As we move into Term 2, important upcoming dates include:

- 6th Year Information Evening: Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2025
- Mock Exams: Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> to Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2026
- CAO Deadline: 1st February 2026
- Graduation Ceremony: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2026

## A Final Word

I would like to sincerely thank all parents and guardians for your continued support throughout this vital year. It has been a privilege to witness our 6th Years demonstrating such maturity, positivity, and ambition. Their dedication, both inside and outside the classroom, sets an inspiring example for the younger years.

Wishing everyone a restful and productive mid-term break.

Warm regards,

Kevin Lanigan

Year Head – 6th Year