April Newsletter - 2025



WELCOME BACK!

After the success of our first school newsletter, we are delighted to bring you the latest edition, showcasing the fantastic work and achievements of our students throughout this short but packed term.

We also welcome contributions from parents and guardians! If you have any news, achievements, or updates you'd like us to feature, please reach out to office@sandymountparketss.ie for the attention of Romina.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

- Punctuality Matters Ensure your child arrives by 8:15 am to get organised before lessons start at 8:30 am.
- Attendance is Key Regular attendance is essential for learning. Please avoid absences unless absolutely necessary.
- Mobile Phones Phones must stay in lockers throughout the school day. Please remind your child to follow this rule.
- Homework & Study Support good study habits by setting aside time and a quiet space for homework each evening.

ON THIS NEWSLETTER

- Curricular Highlights
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Festival of Learning
- Extracurricular Activities
- Sports Competitions
- Transition Year
- School Trips
- National Engineering Week
- Daffodil Day
- Sandymount Park ETSS Table Quiz
- Guidance & Counselling
- Upcoming Events
- School Lotto

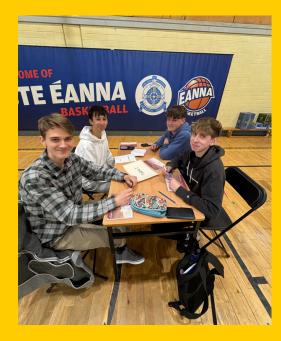




INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

This term, students have been engaging with new topics, developing their skills, and working on a variety of projects across different subjects. Whether through discussions, problem-solving, or practical activities, they have shown great effort and enthusiasm in their learning. In addition to their classroom work, many students have also participated in external competitions, further showcasing their talents and dedication. In this section, we highlight some of the achievements and activities they have been involved in.

MATHS



Team Maths Competition

Pi Quiz Table - IMTA

Well done to our 4 third year teams who recently travelled to Coláiste Éanna to take part in the Irish Maths Teacher's Association Pi Quiz table quiz. All teams performed admirably with Team D (Vichren, Nusret, Noam & Lev) coming 4th, just one point off the teams in joint 2nd. Team A (Luke, Robert, Mark & Maxim) and Team B (Viki, Elias, Jamie & Seamus) finished just one point further back. Well done to all.

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Congratulations to our 4 sixth year teams who recently travelled to Alexandra College to take part in the Irish Maths Teacher's Association Team Maths table quiz. All teams performed admirably with Team A (Rory, Liam Avi & Ayla Parkin) coming sixth. They narrowly missed out on qualification for the national final.



BUSINESS

Entrerprise competition at the Mansion House



TY students Conor, Jack and Duulga participated with the project "Dye Verse", whose mission was to help people to reimagine, recolour and rewear their old garments, reducing clothing waste and promoting sustainability.

2nd year students Oliver, Jamie, Peter and Oscar participated with their business project "Yule Make a Difference". They had sold Christmas logs at our Christmas Market in aid of Gavin Glynn Foundation.

AIB Future Sparks School Impact Awards 24/25

Congratulations to the above 2nd year students who won a prize in the Future Sparks School Impact Award with their "Yule Make a Difference" Project:

"The judges were moved by your project supporting The Gavin Glynn Foundation. They commended your team's entrepreneurial spirit in creating handmade Yule logs. The judges were impressed by money raised for the charity".



ENGLISH

First Years poems

Ist year Skellig English students were given poetic license to create short poems inspired by "The Wordsmith" by Patricia Forde. Exploring themes of control, resistance, hope, and freedom, some drew inspiration from the novel's plot line, while others created entirely new conceptions. Using poetic techniques like metaphors and similes, they first drafted their poems by hand before showcasing their ICT skills in digital poster-style versions. This creative activity allowed the class to engage deeply with the novel while honing their artistic writing abilities too.

It's Fine

There is still hope in the mind You just have to give it some time

<mark>Even if you cause</mark> a crime It's ok because there's a wall to climb

<mark>If you fall behind</mark> Theres a good chance you can shine



Spark of Hope

HOPE IS A SPARK THAT WONT BURN OUT UNLIKE EMBERS LEFT IN A FIRE'S PIT HER CANDLE WILL BURN, I HAVE NO DOUBT SHE WILL KEEP GOING HER FUTURE IS LIT

NOW, SHE'S HAD HER DOWNFALLS BUT ALWAYS GETS UP SHE WILL SAVE US ALL BUT WE HAVE TO WAIT, AND CAN'T INTERRUPT

AFTER ALL HOPE IS A FLAME THAT WON'T BURN

Poems by Zahraa and Hannah



ENGLISH

In Negativity find Possibility

In this town of **hopelessness** Control is **key** It's causing **sleeplessness** For you and **me**

But I believe there is **hope** In this endless **slope** Of **negativity** Find **possibility**



FREEDOM IS A BIRD WITH WINGS UNCHAINED, OARING ABOVE MOUNTAINS, WHERE NO SHADOWS REMAIN. IT'S LIKE THE OCEAN'S WAVES, WILD & UNTAMED. FREEDOM IS A RIVER, FLOWING WITHOUT DOMAINS. FREEDOM IS THE KITE THAT SOARS UP HIGH, A SPACE TO RUN AND TOUCH THE SKY, A PLACE WHERE I CAN LAUGH AND FLY!



Poems by Sofia, Amelia and Aarit



ENGLISH

HOPE POEM SPERARE

Flowers grow in cracks in the street If you can't find hope it's still there but discreet. Hope flickers like a candle but makes ends meet Don't stay down have hope stay on your feet.

Hope is like a bird it might go away but never forever. You can give up but you'll stick around if you're clever.



Poems by Daragh and Jasper

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Julian and Sam, who are our students of the months of February and March respectively.







SPANISH AND GERMAN SCHOOL VISITS

We were excited to welcome Erasmus visitors from Salesianas Alicante y Salesianas Torrent from Comunidad Valenciana to our school recently. Our 1st year students Lacey, Sophie, Sofia and Vera had the chance to give the visitors a tour of the school, conducted in Spanish! Afterward, the Spanish guests treated everyone to a delicious tapas tasting, showcasing some traditional dishes they had prepared themselves. TY students took part in bilingual games, switching between English and Spanish, and joined in on some fun sports activities. The day wrapped up with interesting presentations about Valencia, prepared by our visitors. It was a fantastic day of cultural exchange, learning, and fun. ¡Muchas gracias, Paola, for organising the visit!





2nd year German students enjoyed a visit from students from the Calberlah Realschule in Germany on Thursday 3rd April. The 2nd years were their 'buddies' for the day and showed them around Sandymount Park ETSS, bringing them to each of their classes. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to discuss the differences between the Irish and German school systems and make international friendships.







"Seachtain na Gaeilge ran from March 1st to March 17th, and in Sandymount Park, Irish was in full flow.

The entire event was organised by Rosie and Club Gaeilge, which was founded at the beginning of the year.

Each day, members of the club went around the school sharing a new Irish phrase for everyone to use throughout the day. In Ethical Education, an Irish table quiz was organised for all year groups, featuring four exciting rounds covering everything from Irish pop culture to sports.

Club Gaeilge usually meets on Wednesdays at lunchtime, but for Seachtain na Gaeilge, a special Ciorcal Comhrá was open to everyone in the school. Tea and biscuits were provided, making it a warm and welcoming space for all to practice their Irish.

On the Friday before St. Patrick's Day, the whole school took part in a lively Céilí. Club Gaeilgemembers led the way, demonstrating each dance before students joined in. The Céilí was a massive success and a highlight of the week, running alongside Lá Glas, where nearly the entire school took part by wearing green.

If you enjoyed Seachtain na Gaeilge, why not join Club Gaeilge? It's a fantastic way to improve your Irish, meet new people, and take part in fun events throughout the year!"

Jack, Transition Year.







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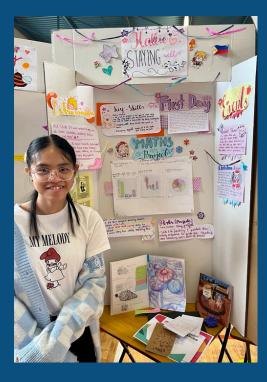
A CELEBRATION OF OUR 1ST YEAR STUDENTS

The Festival of Learning is a special event that showcases the incredible work of our Ist year students. It provides a unique opportunity to see firsthand the innovative learning experiences and projects our students have been involved in.

Students are working hard to select, present and display three pieces of work of their choosing, each linked to the Junior Cycle key skills, while reflecting on their learning so far this year.

We are looking forward to welcoming all parents/guardians of 1st year students on Friday, the 11th from 11am to 12:30pm when 1st years will proudly showcase their work.

Congratulations to our 2024 Festival of Learning winner, Hallie and Highly Commended students Grace and Kaja:





2025 Winner and commendations will be announced in our May Newsletter. Stay tuned!



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

This term brings an updated extra-curricular timetable, making room for more activities and clubs during lunch breaks and after school. We're delighted to share that Sandymount Press is back in action, and students can now also join the Model United Nations club, which meets on Tuesdays. See the updated calendar below for all the details:

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EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES TIMETABLE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	Newspaper Chess Club Debating	Language and Culture Club Librarian Committee Board Games MUN Podcasting	Club Caeilge Card Games Choir Student Council Podcasting	Table Tennis Junior Art Club Sip and Read	Kahoot Club Creative Schools Green Schools Challenge Corner
After School	Gym Club Boys Basketball	Run Club Senior Music Club Baking Club Boys Football	Junior Music Club Girls Basketball	Boys and Girls Hockey Senior Art Club	



TEAM SPIRIT - HOCKEY

It has been another short but promising season for our hockey teams. As our players continue to push themselves on the field, they have once again demonstrated remarkable determination and teamwork. With the season now wrapped up, we look forward to the challenges and opportunities of next term. In this edition, we share testimonials from our players as they reflect on their experiences and highlight standout moments from this term's matches.

Ist Year Girls Hockey Match v King Hospital (2 - 1 win, Abbie x2)





Ist Year Girls Hockey Match v Mount Temple (3 - 1 win, Abbie)



Ist Year Girls Hockey Match v Mount Sackville (4 - 0 win, Layla x2, Hannah and Isabelle)





1st Year Girls Hockey Match Semifinal v St Andrews (1 - 0 loss)



"It's been an amazing year of hockey. Sandymount Park ETSS first year hockey league was an amazing journey, the team made history by reaching the semi-finals. Although the semi-final match ended in defeat, the team's spirit and determination shone through. Through out the season, the team secured numerous victories, demonstrating improvement with each match. Most importantly, the team had a blast and created lots of memories. Even though most of our players were first years, everyone did amazing, and we hope to see everyone play next" Lily, 1st Year.



1st Year Boys Hockey Match v Temple Carrig (2 - 0 loss)



Junior Boys Hockey Match v St Columba's College (4 - 0 win, Tony, Saul x3)





Ist Year Boys Hockey SemiFinal Match v Temple Carrig (2-1 loss, Roman)



Friendly blitz against Harold Cross ETSS



OTHER RESULTS

Boys Team:

6-0 win v Mount Temple (Saul x5, Aran x1) 2-0 win v Skerries (Saul x2)





U17s football team V Malahide Portmarnock ETSS (5-3 win, Christian x2, Duulga, Adriano, Reuben)









Tennis season is off to a strong start —stay tuned for more!







A YEAR OF GROWTH

This has been another exciting term for our Transition Year students, balancing classroom learning with hands-on experiences. Through a variety of workshops, activities, and work placement, they have had the opportunity to develop key skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, creativity, and independence. These experiences have enriched their learning and allowed them to explore new interests in a practical setting.

BARISTA COURSE

Dublin Barista School's one-day The certified allowed students to learn essential barista skills, including espresso preparation, milk texturing, and equipment handling. They learned to craft and present coffee and hot chocolate gaining insight into coffee origins and measurements. The course is followed by access to an online recap module, that they all receive a certificate. Students created a pop up coffee shop for some of our other thirsty students to get a feel for how the pressure can mount in a busy work environment. Everyone was 'buzzing' by the end of the day!





Adrijus, Conor and Sokratis



ROWING COURSE - PE

Transition Year students Year have started their four-week on-the-water course with Stella Maris. We would like to extend our thanks to Pat Kane for his continued support as well as Catherine for organising this. The students received an insightful talk on water safety from the RNLI, enjoyed rowing along the River Liffey, and embarked on a boat trip around Dublin Port, including a visit to the Poolbeg Lighthouse. They also took part in a rowing-inspired gym session.





ARCHITECTURE WORKSHOP

A number of students have been involved in an Architecture module which has allowed them to use their creative skills to create and build a new use for their local community. They have worked closely with an architect and have seen their plans come to life. Students will present their ideas at a showcase with the Architects in School Exhibition in Dun Laoghaire.







FIRST AID

As part of our TY Programme students participated in a certified Frist Aid course, which covers an overview to a variety of medical issues. Students learned and practiced a variety of skills to cope in situations including CPR, burns and bandages.



DIGITAL DROP IN

The last Monday of every month a small group of students have helped members of the community use their digital devices. This is in conjunction with the Sandymount Community Centre who have linked with Google on this fantastic initiative. Our students have loved getting to know those they are helping and getting to know people in their community!



DRUMMING WORKSHOP





LOCALISE

"A group of TY students spent the afternoon volunteering at Enable Ireland. The TYs were helping the students of Enable Ireland to create Easter decorations as part of this. It was amazing to see our students interact with the children and help them with this. A big part of this interaction was hand-on-hand work where the TYs guided the students hands with colouring, drawing and gluing the Easter decorations together. After this we went outside and the TYs helped with the Parachute game where everyone held a part of the parachute and tried to move two footballs from one side to the other. It was a great day and we look forward to going back to Enable Ireland in the future." Ciarán, Geography and Business Teacher.







SCHOOLTRIPS

EXPLORING TOGETHER

This term, students have had the chance to step outside the classroom and experience learning in a different way. With a variety of trips organised for both Junior and Senior students, these outings have been a great opportunity to explore new places, gain fresh insights, and enjoy time with classmates. A big thank you to our teachers for making these experiences possible! Here are some of the highlights:

KING LEAR AT THE GATE THEATRE

6th Year English Students attended a performance of Shakespeare's King Lear as part of their English studies. The trip gave them the chance to see the play come to life on stage, providing a deeper understanding of its themes of family, loyalty, and power. Experiencing the play in this way helped students to connect more closely with the text, supporting their learning as they prepare for their exams. It was a valuable and enjoyable outing that brought the classroom material to life in a new and memorable way. // Leaving Certificate students recently attended a performance of King Lear as part of their English studies. The trip gave them the chance to see the play's themes of family and power brought to life on stage, enhancing their understanding and appreciation of the text ahead of their exams.





IFI CINEMA TRIPS

This term, Modern Foreign Languages students took a trip to the IFI cinema to watch films in their original language. It was a great chance to experience the language as it's really spoken and to get a glimpse into the cultures behind it. A fantastic way to bring learning beyond the classroom!













ART TRIP TO THE HUGH LANE GALLERY











ART TRIP TO THE HUGH LANE GALLERY







FIELD TRIP TO KIPPURE, CO. WICLOW

5th Year Geography students carried out experiments at the source of the river Liffey. Lovely day for it!









FIELD TRIP TO KIPPURE, CO. WICLOW







NATIONAL ENGINEERING MEEK

FROM CONCEPTS TO CREATIONS

During the week of 3th-7th of March, our school came alive with curiosity and innovation as we celebrated Spotlight on Engineering Week during Tutor Time. This exciting initiative, designed to promote Whole-School Guidance and raise awareness about the diverse world of engineering, saw students from both Junior and Senior Cycles actively engage in a series of fun and educational activities.

THE WHOLE-SCHOOL ENGINEERING QUIZ

Each morning, students participated in an interactive Whole School Engineering Quiz, testing their knowledge of engineering concepts, famous engineers, and groundbreaking technological advancements.

- Monday & Tuesday: Students answered three engineering-related questions each morning, fostering discussion and teamwork within tutor groups.
- Wednesday: An extra challenge with four questions, encouraging deeper engagement and critical thinking.
- Thursday: A high-energy General Knowledge Engineering Kahoot, bringing a competitive and interactive edge to the week's activities.
- Friday: The much-anticipated announcement of winners, with prizes awarded to the top-performing classes.

FOSTERING DISCUSSION AND COLLABORATION

Throughout the week, teachers facilitated engaging conversations using a specially designed PowerPoint presentation. Students explored the role of engineering in everyday life, the various career pathways available, and how problem-solving and creativity drive innovation in this dynamic field.



NATIONAL ENGINEERING NEEK

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SAMPLE QUESTIONS FROM THE QUIZ

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The Compass

Ships' Compasses have helped sailors navigate for more than 900 years. They are housed in **binnacles** – as a safeguard against what?



Metal



Piracy



Storms at Sea



Binnacles and Metal



The value of a compass to a sailor is that, using magnetism, it should always point North. But the closer it is to other magnetic metals, the less accurate it will be – so binnacles provide shielding from other metals on the ship.

Before compasses were used for navigation, Chinese astronomers used them to attempt to tell peoples' fortunes. Once their use in navigation became known, compasses were widely used by sailors. And, **300 years ago**, they became particularly useful when engineers developed **marine clocks**.

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Pirate Engineers



As all ships had compasses during the Golden Age of Piracy, there was no real need to keep them under lock and key. Pirates were, though, great engineers, maintaining, repairing and improving their ships while on the move – and learning and refining great skills as metalworkers.



Storms at Sea

Although binnacles have nothing to do with surviving storms at sea, this is an area that **nautical engineers** take very seriously. Ships need to stay afloat whether the waves are **rolling** them from side to side, or **pitching** them front front to back. And they also need to be able to withstand the huge forces provided by waves tens of metres high crashing over them.

CELEBRATING OUR WINNERS!

Congratulations to all the participating classes for their enthusiasm and teamwork! Special recognition goes to our winning groups, who demonstrated exceptional knowledge and collaboration throughout the week.

Thank you to our dedicated staff for supporting this initiative and making Spotlight on Engineering Week a resounding success. We look forward to continuing to inspire the next generation of engineers!

lst Year	Lambay & Innisfree	
2nd Year	Lambay	
3rd Year	Lambay	
Transition Year	Skellig	
5th Year	Lambay	
6th Year	Aran	

NATIONAL ENGINEERING WEEK

SISK ENGINEERS VISIT

A glimpse into the future of construction

Students had an exciting opportunity to learn about the world of construction and engineering during a visit from SISK engineers. The talk focused on the redevelopment of the historic Glass Bottle Factory site in Ringsend, which is being transformed into a modern residential quarter.

The Glass Bottle Development

Once home to the Irish Glass Bottle Company, which produced glassware for over a century, the site is now being repurposed into a vibrant new community. The first phase of the development includes three residential blocks with 566 apartments and townhouses, as well as commercial spaces. The second phase will add 324 more apartments, green spaces, and retail areas.

Insights from Industry Experts

The visiting engineers shared their experiences in various roles:

- Laura McPadden, Planner, explained how careful scheduling ensures construction projects stay on track.
- Tom Larkin, Site Engineer, demonstrated how precision and problem-solving are crucial on-site.
- Kane Farrell, BIM Engineer, highlighted how digital modelling enhances efficiency and sustainability in construction.

Did you know...? A Look Back at History

- The Irish Glass Bottle Company was founded in 1871, initially making black porter bottles.
- By the 1980s, it was one of the most advanced glass factories in Europe.
- The factory closed in 2002, marking the end of an era for Ringsend's industrial past.

The visit provided students with a fascinating look at career opportunities in construction, engineering, and planning, as well as a deeper appreciation for Dublin's evolving landscape.



SUPPORTING DAFFODIL DAY

The Student Council led a meaningful fundraising effort in support of Daffodil Day, bringing the school community together for a great cause. As part of their initiative, they organised a successful bake sale, with students and staff contributing delicious treats to help raise funds. Through their hard work and enthusiasm, they helped generate vital support for the Irish Cancer Society, showing the power of teamwork and generosity. A huge well done to all involved!









BATTLE OF THE BRAINS

The much-anticipated Sandymount Park ETSS Table Quiz once again brought parents and teachers together for a night of friendly competition, quick thinking, and plenty of laughs. We had a fantastic evening at Railway Station, filled with teamwork, tense moments, and a fingers-to the-button final round. Congratulations to Gillian and Will Keating and Jennifer Doyle and Kevin Rooney, the winners of the night – teachers will be looking for revenge next year!

A big thank you to all the parents involved in the organisation of the event.











































VALUABLE RESOURCES IN OUR WEBPAGE

At Sandymount Park, we are committed to supporting our students in every aspect of their educational journey. One of the key resources available to students, parents, and staff is our Guidance & Counselling section on the school website. Found under Teaching & Learning > Guidance & Counselling, this dedicated space provides invaluable information on career planning, personal development, and mental health support.

WHAT CAN I FIND ON THE GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING SECTION?

CAREER GUIDANCE

- Access to the Careers Portal with up-to-date information on subject choices, career options, and college pathways.
- Advice on work experience opportunities and CV writing tips.

WELLBEING & COUNSELLING SUPORT

- -&Resources for managing stress, building resilience, and maintaining positive mental health.
- Information on how to access support from our school's Guidance Counsellor.

STUDY & EXAM PREPARATION

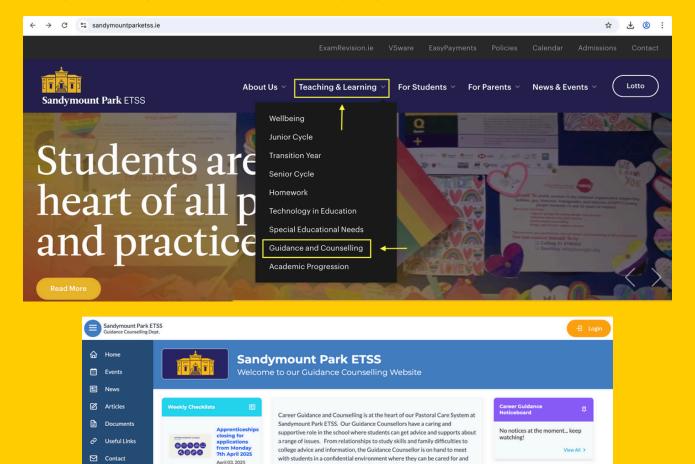
- Practical tips on time management and effective study techniques.
- 🔆 Exam stress management strategies.





HOW TO ACCESS IT?

To explore these resources, simply visit <u>https://sandymountparketss.ie/</u> and navigate to Teaching & Learning > Guidance & Counselling or go directly via CareersPortal Link:



We encourage all students and parents to make use of this valuable resource to help navigate both academic and personal challenges. If you need further support, our Guidance Counsellor is always available to help!

provides support for all students in three main areas:

supported throughout their time in the school.

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Counselling helps pupils explore their thoughts and feelings and the choices open to them. It gives care and support to pupils learning to cope with the many aspects of growing up and school life and with their individual personal

circumstances. Sandymount Park ETSS endeavours to offer a comprehensive

guidance and counselling service to all our students. The Guidance Counsello liases with Progress Leaders, Class Teachers, Learning Support Teachers, Subject Teachers, Deputy Principal and Principal. They also have regular contact with parents, psychologists, employers, colleges, social services, counsellors and the Department of Education

The Career Guidance and Counselling Dept within Sandymount Park ETSS

Career

Subject Choice for

Career Explo

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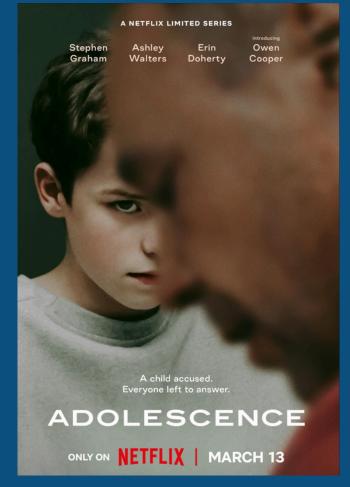
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GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING

ADOLESCENCE

At this point, you might have already watched Adolescence, or maybe you're planning to watch it soon. This Netflix show gives a portrayal of the challenges and experiences many teenagers face today. It covers topics like self-identity, friendships, and the impact of social media, highlighting the complexities of growing up in the digital age.

After watching, you might be thinking about how to better support your children.



Webwise has put together a list of 7 things parents can do after watching Adolescence. This resource not only provides these practical tips but also includes numerous additional links offering advice for parents looking to enhance their support for their child's online experiences:

https://www.webwise.ie/news/7-things-parents-can-do-after-watchingadolescence/



DON'T MISS OUT!

As we prepare to welcome the final term of the school year, there is much to look forward to in the weeks ahead. The upcoming term promises to be a busy and exciting one. Here's a look at what's coming up!

SUMMER ASSESSMENT WEEK

With the end of the academic year approaching, our final assessments will soon take place for 1st, 2nd TYs and 5th year. Assessment schedule and revision checklists will be shared with students and uploaded on the school website.

STATE EXAMINATIONS – JUNE

The State Examinations for 3rd and 6th years will commence on Wednesday, the 4th of June. Click on the QR codes below to access the timetables:

Junior Certificate Examinations:



Leaving Certificate Examinations:



IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS



LC Oral Examinations - 12-17/4 🔽 School reopens - 28/4





Parents Association Talk - 30/4







6th Year Graduation - 16/5



Last day of school - 30/5 🛛 🗹 State Examinations - 4/6



PLAY OUR SCHOOL LOTTO

Win Big and Support the School!

Our school lotto is your chance to win while making a difference! The jackpot is currently an impressive €2,000, and we also have weekly prizes of €20. By playing each week, you're not only in with a chance to win these fantastic prizes but also directly contributing to the development and enhancement of our school. Get involved, try your luck, and help us create more opportunities for our students – it's a win-win for everyone! Scan the QR below



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!

SAOIRSE & LAYLA MICHAEL EVAN CATHAL JAMES SIOBHAN

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS FOR SUPPORTING AND ENHANCING OUR STUDENTS' EDUCATION

