

SANDYMOUNT PARK ETSS

HAPPY SUMMER!

As we close out the school year, this final newsletter takes a look back at a very active final term—full of diverse activities, whole-school celebrations, and preparation for the exams ahead.

Thank you to everyone who's been part of it.

Wishing you all a great summer, and the very best of luck to our exam students!

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.

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CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

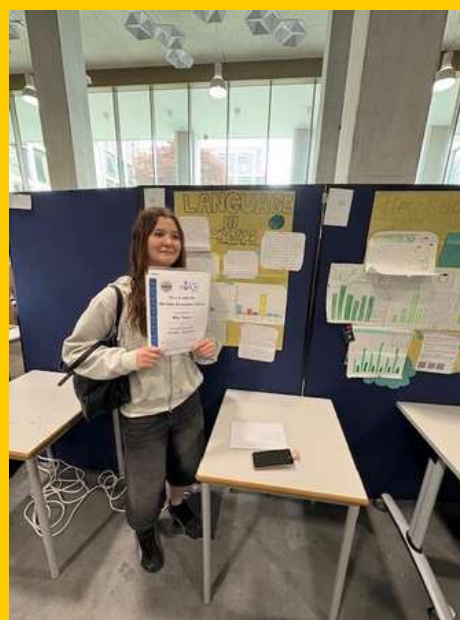
Now that the final term is behind us, it is a good moment to reflect on all that's taken place. Though short, it was an enjoyable term with class projects, visiting speakers, school outings, and focused preparation for the summer assessments and State Exams. As students now turn their attention to revision, we look back at some of the standout curricular moments from recent weeks.

STEM

SciFest @College

Well done to our TY students who competed in the SciFest @ College competition in TUD Grangegorman on Friday 2nd May. Students involved were Mika, Sara, Nadia, Miruna, Ipek, Sasha, Annika & Nora.

Congratulations to Mika and Sara for winning a 'Highly Commended' award for their investigation into the languages spoken in SPETSS.



CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

GAELBHRATACH AWARD

We are delighted to say that we have earned our first Gaelbhratach. Gaelbhratach is a scheme that was founded in response to the need to create natural opportunities to speak Irish outside of the classroom and Irish class time. The scheme provides support from Gael Linn and involves schools establishing a committee to promote Irish throughout the whole school community. This year, Sandymount Park ETSS had 9 members on our committee across Transition Year and 5th year, who planned various events such as quizzes, competitions, trips, and created our 'Balla Gaeilge' with our motto, film, music, and tv recommendations, and information about events taking place. We recently attended a presentation ceremony in Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, where we were awarded our flag and where we learned that Sandymount Park ETSS is the first post-primary school in the area to be awarded our Gaelbhratach. Well done to the Irish Department for this milestone.



CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMME

Transition Year students recently participated in a comprehensive financial literacy programme delivered by Irish Funds, the representative body for the funds and asset management industry in Ireland.

Over the course of six weeks, students engaged with professionals from the financial sector, gaining valuable insights into key areas such as digital finance, sustainable investing and portfolio management.

As part of the programme, participants took part in a simulation exercise where they created and managed their own investment portfolios, applying the knowledge and skills they acquired throughout the initiative.

The experience not only enhanced their financial literacy but also helped develop practical life skills, offering a unique opportunity to explore potential career paths in the financial services industry.



CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

LEAVING CERTIFICATE PE

"In LCPE this year, as part of our course, we were learning about the role of a coach. We learned in class about the physical and mental roles of the coach in sport. After completing this topic in class, we applied it to the real world by coaching first years. We split our class into groups of four and took 10 first years each to coach. We did a fun ramp warmup where we did an in depth stretch, raised our heart rate and body temperature and played some games. Once all the first years were warmed up, we played a five aside game. After the match, we had a group discussion with our teams and asked them what they enjoyed about the day and what they think we could improve. The following week in class we discussed the feedback from the first years and applied it to our next lesson plan. This time we brought a speaker and played more upbeat music to motivate them more and encourage them to participate. After we finished our warmup, we played our five a side match again, this time the first years were much more involved and enjoyed it much more. They said the addition of upbeat music made it much more enjoyable.

Our LCPE class enjoyed learning how to coach and applying what we learned in class to the real world. It was enjoyable to get out of the classroom and have a practical class, and it also bettered our understanding of the topic." – Kate



CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

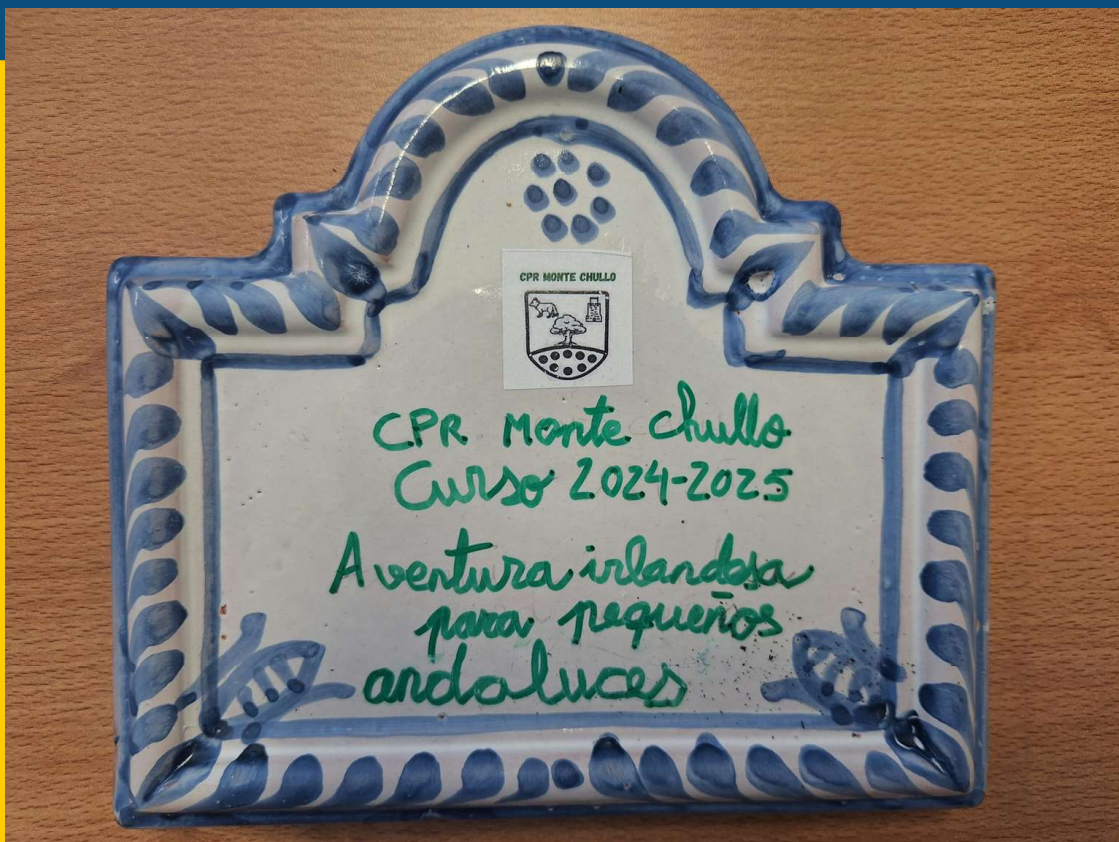
VISITS FROM GRANADA AND ALICANTE

During this last term we were lucky enough to welcome students from Colegio María Asunta de Castalla (Alicante) and CPR Monte Chullo (Granada).

Our students Vichren, Jack and Marianne gave them a guided tour, followed by a series of fun activities designed to help everyone practise both Spanish and English—from language games to friendly sports matches in the PE Hall.

During Culture and Language Club, Spanish students made a presentation about their regions, gastronomy and traditions. They also gifted us a memorable plaque to celebrate this cultural exchange.

It was a great opportunity for students to practise their Spanish and learn more about these regions. Many thanks to Paola for welcoming the schools!



CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

GERMAN EXCHANGE TO LUDWIGSHAFEN

After welcoming German students in the past term in our school, our students studying German in 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th year enjoyed their visit to Ludwigshafen for the second part of this German exchange.

Students spent the week city-hopping to the nearby towns of Speyer, Bad Dürkheim, Heidelberg and Frankfurt. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to practice their German language skills, have cultural experiences and make happy memories!

Many thanks to Shona for organising this amazing trip!



CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS



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MERCI, BASTIEN!

This year, we were delighted to welcome Bastien from Bayonne as our French language assistant. Bastien was a fantastic support to both Junior and Senior students, working closely with them to build confidence in spoken French. He played a key role in preparing students for their oral exams, helping them expand their vocabulary and improve their pronunciation through daily practice and engaging conversations. Beyond language, Bastien brought the classroom to life with cultural insights, fun facts, and engaging activities that gave students a real taste of life in France. His presence has been a wonderful addition to the French department, and he will be greatly missed!

Here are some questions that our second year students prepared for Bastien about his experience living in Dublin and working in an secondary school in Ireland:

Why did you choose Ireland?

Because of my interest on the Celtic culture. When I was young, I used to watch lot of Riverdance and loved the dance. I was told people were very nice too, which is so true!

Is the public transport very different in France?

People here are more patience than in France when it comes to driving, but traffic is very congested.

You're so fashionable! Where do you buy your clothes?

Second hand shops or vintage.

What was your biggest culture shock when you came to Ireland?

The gap between what you learn in school and how the English language is really spoken. The accent was very hard to understand at least during the first month. I'm still struggling to understand sometimes!

What are you going to do next?

I will do a master on Audiovisual Translation in Lille, the north of France.



CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

PLAYING PÉTANQUE AVEC SALLY



FESTIVAL OF LEARNING

A CELEBRATION OF OUR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

First Year students have worked hand-in-hand for their Festival of Learning showcase, which took place on April 11th. This is a special event that showcases the fantastic work of our younger students. It provides a unique opportunity to see first hand the innovative learning experiences and projects our students have been involved in. Students reflected on their learning so far this year by selecting, presenting and displaying three pieces of work of their choosing, each linked to a Junior Cycle key skill. We were delighted to hear of the positive learning experiences students have enjoyed.

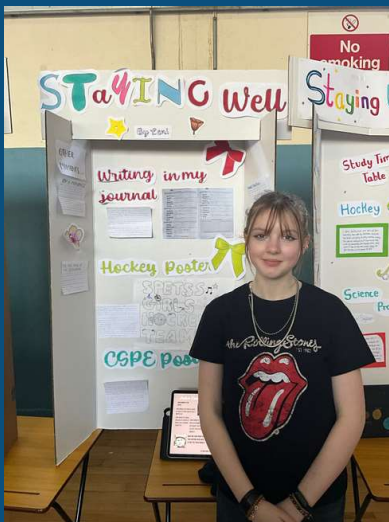
Highlights included Single Use Culture in Art, Poetry in English and Irish, heart dissections in Science, extra-curricular sports, culture and food in Classics, the Alive Outside bonding trip and Coding with Minecraft. It was impressive to see students innovative use of technology across subject areas; including creating medieval castles in Minecraft, instructional videos in Science and beautiful digital art.

Congratulations to our 2025 overall winner Hannah Daly and those Highly Commended:



FESTIVAL OF LEARNING

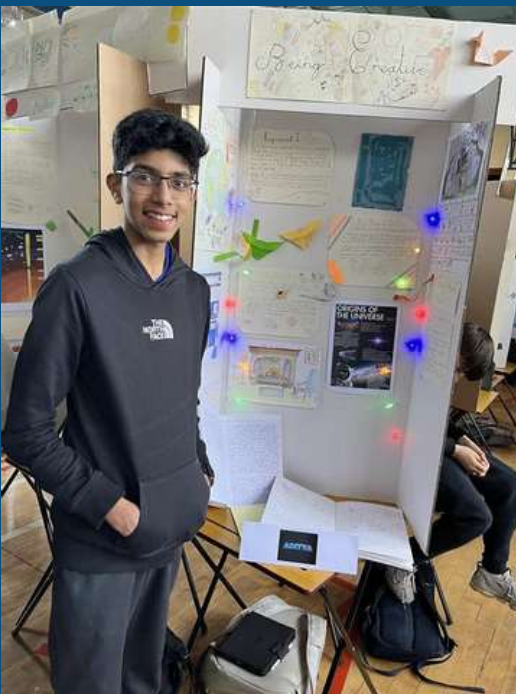
Highly Commended: Ellie Dunne and Hannah O'Connell



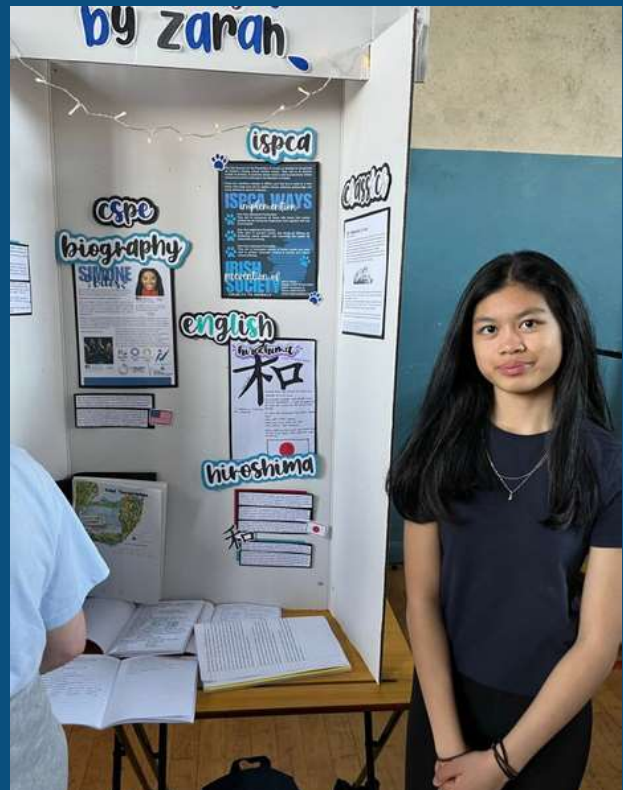
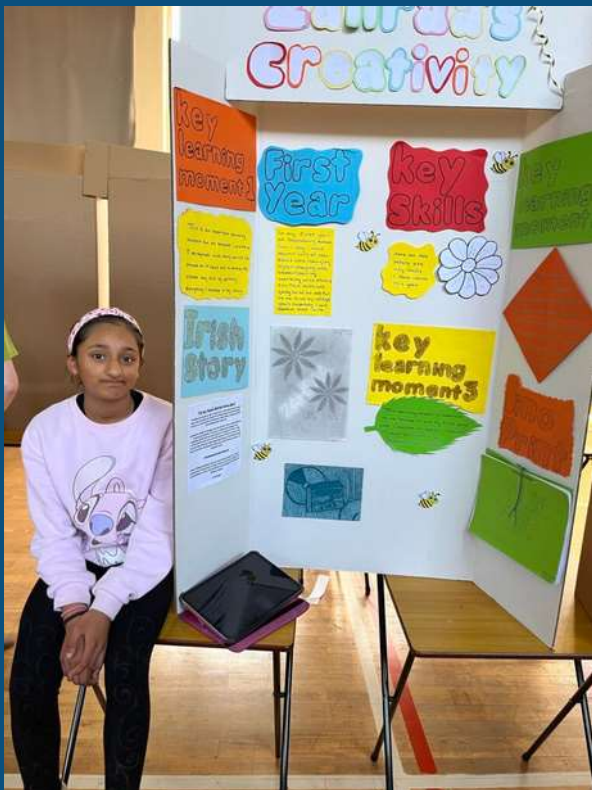
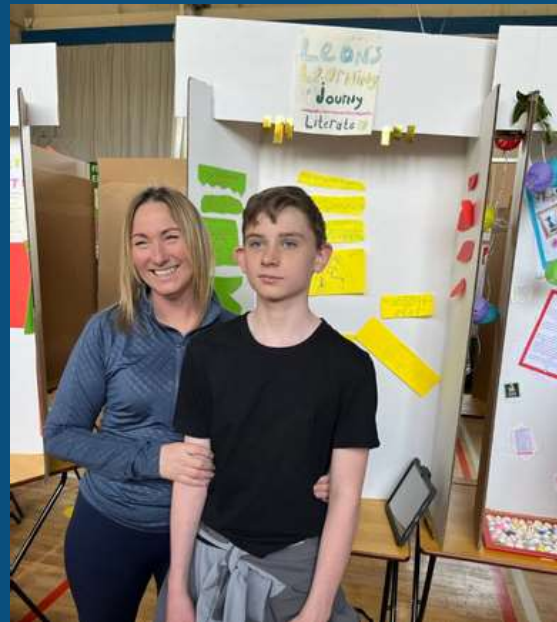
FESTIVAL OF LEARNING



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EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

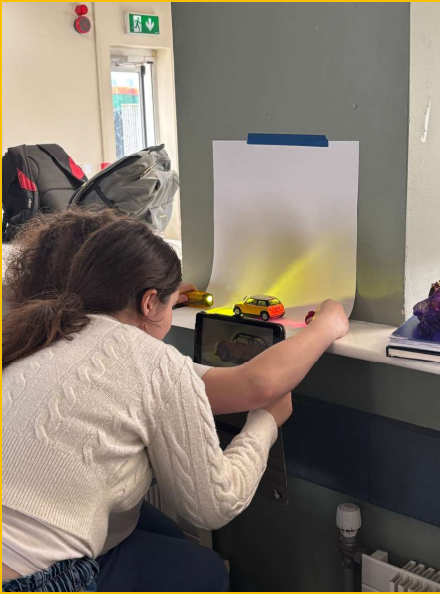
As we wrap up the final term of the school year, students have continued to make the most of the extracurricular opportunities on offer. From school workshops to lunchtime clubs, there has been great energy and engagement across a variety of activities.

PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP – CREATIVE SCHOOLS

As part of our Creative Schools programme, students recently took part in a photography workshop led by photographer Brian Cregan and organised by the ever-supportive Mairead. The first session focused on using iPads to capture landscape images, with a trip to the beach providing the perfect setting for hands-on practice. In the second session, students explored technical aspects of photography, adjusting their images using camera settings and experimenting with still life compositions and lighting. It was a fun and engaging experience that sparked creativity and new skills.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



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GREEN SCHOOLS FLAG AWARD

Erik, Ruby and Sophie travelled to the Helix on behalf of the Green Schools Committee to collect our school's first Green Flag for the Litter and Waste theme. The committee is made up of students from all year groups who meet weekly and have been working hard to achieve their flag for the past two years.

Congratulations to the students and a big thank you to Conor D for organising this.



SPORTS COMPETITIONS

TEAM SPIRIT

The summer term saw an exciting tennis season for our school, with four teams taking to the courts – two boys' teams and two girls' teams. Over the course of the term, each team played several matches, experiencing a great mix of wins and losses. More importantly, the season was filled with fun, camaraderie, and noticeable improvement in all our players' skills.

We would like to extend a big thank you to Railway and Landsdowne tennis clubs for generously allowing us to use their excellent courts throughout the season. Their support has been invaluable.

A special thanks also goes to Conor M, Sara, and Erica, who dedicated their time and energy to coaching and supporting our teams, helping to make this season a success.

We are already looking forward to next year's tennis season, eager to build on the progress made and enjoy more great matches.

Additionally, we want to congratulate our U17s football team for making it to the final this season. More to come next academic year!



TRANSITION YEAR

A YEAR OF GROWTH

As Transition Year comes to an end, our students have been making the most of their final weeks before stepping into Senior Cycle. Students of Irish went to the Lighthouse cinema for the screening of Tarmac. They also visited UCD on the 8th of May o UCD. It's been a fantastic year and we're proud of how our TY students have embraced every opportunity. Congratulations!

GAISCE TRIP TO LOUGH DAN SCOUT CENTRE

Teachers Sherell and Clodagh brough students to the Lough Dan Scout Centre in Roundwood, Co. Wicklow, as part of a Gaisce Trip. Over the course of two days, students completed an impressive 27.3km hike, reaching the summits of both Scar and Kanturk mountains. The hike was expertly led by George and Linda, whose knowledge of the area added so much to the experience. Students stayed overnight, enjoyed games and a swim in the lake, and took full responsibility for cooking their meals and leaving the hostel spotless. Their positive attitude, teamwork, and independence were truly commendable—they were a credit to themselves and the school, and they should be very proud!



TRANSITION YEAR



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TRANSITION YEAR

TY SHOWCASE AND GRADUATION

Congratulations to our Transition Year students on their fantastic Showcase and Graduation, held on Tuesday, 13th May. Students selected work from a range of subjects to reflect how they embraced the TY values of Fun, Friendship, Freedom, and Future throughout the year. Parents and guardians were welcomed to the event, where they had the opportunity to walk through the showcase, speak with students about their highlights and achievements. Below the awarded students of the afternoon:

Values of TY Awards

Fun – Eoin O’Connell
Friendship – Faye Carey
Freedom – Annika Alan
Future – Axel Mooney



Showcase Showstoppers

Azd Khoury
Ipek Alp
Jack Clarke

Spirit of Transition Year

Conor Doyle
Niamh Kane

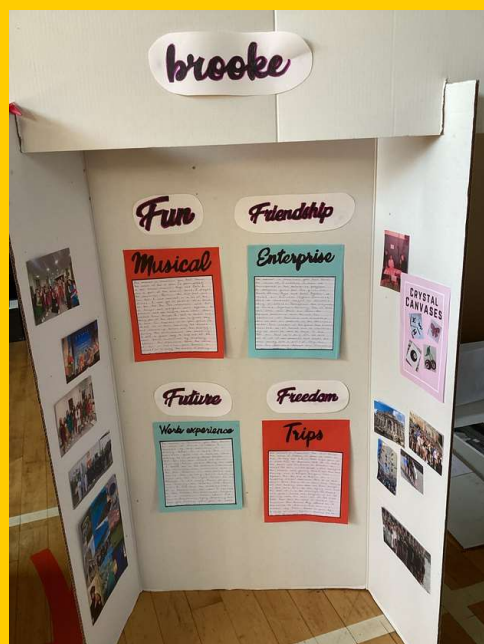
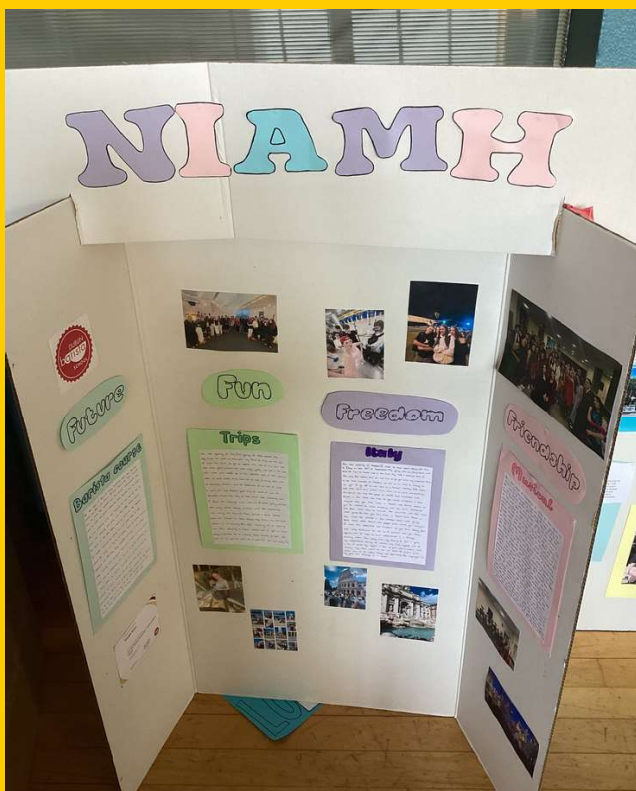
Student of the Year

Jack Clarke



TRANSITION YEAR

TY SHOWCASE AND GRADUATION



TRANSITION YEAR



TRANSITION YEAR

