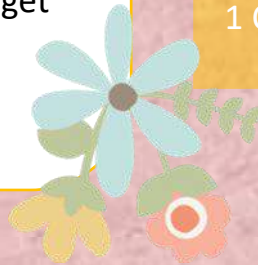


Easter 2024 Newsletter



Spring has sprung and here we are at the end of yet another term! In this Easter newsletter you will see how much we can pack into just a few short weeks. In between all the lessons and mock exams, we have had everything from showstopping musicals, college visits and theatre trips to TY retreats, basketball matches and Gaeltacht stays - there really has been no shortage of things to get involved in at Le Chéile Secondary School!

"Bloom where you are planted." -
1 Corinthians 7:20-24



Upcoming events:

23rd – 27th of March: Leaving Cert oral exams

9th – 13th of April: 1st year Italian exchange

18th – 21st of April: Senior trip to Paris

30th of April: Yearbook picture day

6th & 7th of May: No school

9th of May: Sports Day

24th of May: Awards Day

27th – 31st of May: Summer house exams

31st of May: Last day of school

5th of June: Leaving Cert & Junior Cert exams begin



Message from the Principal

Spring is such a lovely time of year. The days are a little bit brighter and all around we begin to see the emergence of new life as the first buds of Spring appear.

As always in Le Chéile, this term has been characterised by a whirlwind of activity and as you read through the pages of our newsletter you will see lots of examples of our students' positive engagement with school life across a broad range of areas.

You will by now be familiar with our root beliefs one of which is 'we can transform the world with our creativity'. The articulation of this root belief was evident in our Transition Year school production. 'All Shook Up' was a tour de force offering each student the opportunity to combine their own innate talents with the experience of working closely with others as a team.

The hard work and commitment of the students and the production team was clear as their performance of the music of Elvis dazzled audiences over the three nights.

Extra-curricular activities are an important way of stretching a young person's talents and ensuring they become well rounded people. Our teachers are extremely generous with their time in offering our students so many incredible opportunities and I extend my thanks to them for their support of and commitment to the extra and co-curricular life of the school.

As the term draws to a close our 3rd year students are actively engaged in the process of selecting their subjects and programmes for Leaving Certificate. They have embraced the challenge of the mock examinations, and we hope that they are now better placed to know how to focus their efforts for the rest of the year.

Our 6th year students are working hard in preparation for their Leaving Certificate Exams whilst also beginning to dream of life beyond the doors and walls of Le Chéile. We pray for them as they make their final preparations for the Oral Examinations which take place over the Easter holiday.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents for their support and as the holiday begins, I would like to wish all our students and their families a happy and Holy Easter.

Leona Harrington



"The great gift of Easter is Hope" - Basil Hume



Message from the Deputy Principals

As spring graces us with its presence, we are reminded of the eternal truth that animates our journey: "God is love, love is here" - guiding us in our pursuit of knowledge, happiness, truth and love. We can't believe the end of the second term is drawing to a close. The year has flown by and this was an especially busy term; lots of exciting opportunities on offer to all our students. We had a really fun week for Seachtáin na Gaeilge, trips to the theatre, the Emmanuel concert, the Gaeltacht, a Good News Trip and the absolutely excellent TY musical *All Shook Up*. Our sports teams have been brilliant this year so far too. We will need a bigger trophy cabinet to show off all the trophies!

It's fantastic to see you all take part in these activities and represent our school so wonderfully. Keep taking part and keep doing us proud! We really appreciate the contribution you make to Le Chéile.

We would like to wish all our Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle students the very best in their upcoming orals and practicals, and final exams in June. We have no doubt that you will be incredibly successful and do yourself proud. *Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated.*

Thank you for the exceptional effort that you made this half term when you came to school ready to learn and by being your best self every day and making the school a welcoming, kind, dynamic and vibrant place to be in.

We wish our students and their families a restful and rejuvenating Easter break. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our shared values. Together, let us continue to inspire, uplift, and empower one another to build tomorrow for our Le Chéile community and beyond.

Ms. Walsh, Mr. Walshe & Ms. Sheehan



Whole School Events



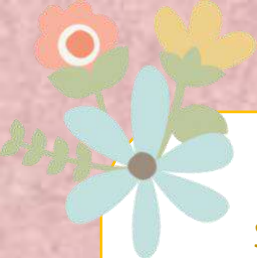
Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week took place this year from 22nd - 26th January 2024. The theme this year was Communities of Service.

In true Le Chéile fashion, there were a number of activities that took place over a two week period to mark the occasion, from a poster competition outlining what each day entailed to a St. Brigid's Cross making workshop for first years.

Each year group was called down to the GP hall to participate in assemblies lead by our Chaplain, Father Brian, and the Religion Department, with input from the students. There was even a guest speaker – the president of our local Saint Vincent de Paul branch. During the assemblies and ceremonies, students listened to readings, watched an informative video and wrote down who in our school community they were grateful for. A great week was had by all!





Study Skills for 3rd and 6th years

Exam year students spent a day learning how to learn. Hopefully these study skills will come in handy as they prepare for their Junior and Leaving Certificate exams in June. We wish them the very best of luck!



Seachtain na Gaeilge

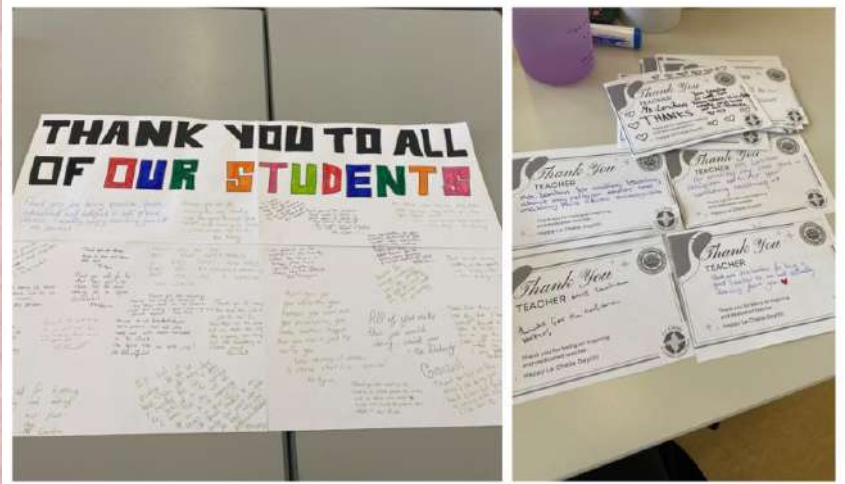
Events to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge took place from Thursday the 14th of March to Friday the 22nd of March. These included a Tráth na gCeist (quiz) for 1st and 2nd year students, a daily lunch time screening of An Cailín Ciúin, and a Caife agus Comhrá (coffee morning) for TYs and 6th years.

Students enjoyed a Maidin Caife agus Comhrá as part of our school's Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations. They got to enjoy a hot drink but there was a catch, they had to ask for it as Gaeilge. Students were encouraged to caint as Gaeilge as much possible at the coffee morning, especially those who have the Béaltriall ag teacht next week!

Thanks to our Learning Leaders and Breakfast Club volunteers who were exceptional help on the day and really pushed the Gaeilge! Gaeilge Abú! 🍀

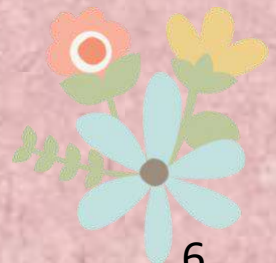
Le Chéile Day

The theme of this year's Le Chéile Day was gratitude so what better way to celebrate than students and teachers writing messages to each other to say what they were grateful for! On the 6th of March, students wrote short messages for their teachers which were secretly placed on their desks, while the teachers made a gratitude poster for the students which was displayed at the entrance of the school to welcome students as they arrived.



Le Chéile 5km

Our annual 5km Run/Walk was back again this year on Friday the 22nd of March. The whole school got behind the event raising vital funds for Trócaire while also wearing red to Show Racism The Red Card! Students and staff raced around the Astro and did a lap of the park to complete the 5km. Thank you to everyone who sponsored us and if anyone would still like to do so, our Just Giving page is still live!



Biodiversity Matters Art Competition

Winners have been announced in the schools media competition for young people run by the Columbans in Britain and Ireland. This year's theme was 'Biodiversity Matters.' The announcement day – the 21st of March – is the UN's International Day of Forests.

Young people aged 13-18 years were asked to produce a piece of writing or an image that demonstrates an awareness and understanding of the issue of biodiversity and to highlight people, communities and/or organisations trying to build a sustainable future. Protecting biodiversity – which humanity relies on for health, food and well-being – is a mission priority of Columban missionaries.

The competition attracted 223 entries across Britain and Ireland.

We are delighted to announce that Keelin Bellemand from Ms.Cowley's 3rd Year Visual Art class in Le Chéile Secondary School received 2nd Place in the image section. Congratulations Keelin!





Junior Cycle



Rí rá agus ruaille buaille!

2nd Year Gaeltacht Trip

To kick off the month of March, 31 second year students and their teachers spent two nights in Coláiste Uisce, Béal an Mhuirthead, Co. Mayo. During their stay at the Gaeltacht, they were *ar mhuin na muice* as they went sea swimming, built their own rafts and raced them, jumped off piers, and did some body-boarding, rock climbing and arts and crafts! *Go hiontach!*

Good News Trip

Good News Trip! 1st and 2nd year students who lost NO points on VSware during the November/December term bounced the day away at Jump Zone on the 23rd of February! Well done to the winning house, Mother Teresa, for being great role models to the other classes!



The Merchant of Venice

3rd year students experienced what life was like in sixteenth century Italy when they watched the Shakespearian play, *The Merchant of Venice*, in the Mill Theatre, Dundrum on the 6th of March.

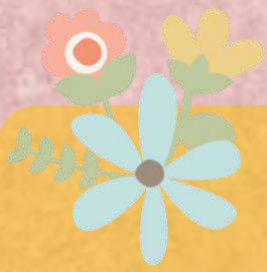


Postcard Exchange Initiative

Ms.Cowley's 2nd year Visual Art students have taken part in the postcard exchange again this year. Their artwork was on display in IMMA and made its way to Banbridge for its second showcasing. 18 students took part. When the exhibition finishes, postcards get exchanged amongst the participants which is a lovely added feature.

The British Embassy Dublin and British Council in Ireland fund the project and the theme this year was "Identity".





Transition Year

All Shook Up

What a show! The Transition Year students really left us feeling *All Shook Up* after a truly amazing performance night after night on the big stage. The students and their teachers worked extremely hard to get the show to be as good it was – months of auditions and rehearsals, hours of costume, make up and set design, and four performances to cheering crowds.

Well done to the stars of the show, the behind the scenes workers, members of staff and all involved on the night.



All Shook Up!



TY Retreat Donabate

Fresh from their sell-out run the previous week, the stars of All Shook Up went to North County Dublin for some seaside reflection on their TY retreat. A brilliant day with a brilliant group of young people led by our brilliant in-house retreat team!



Circus School

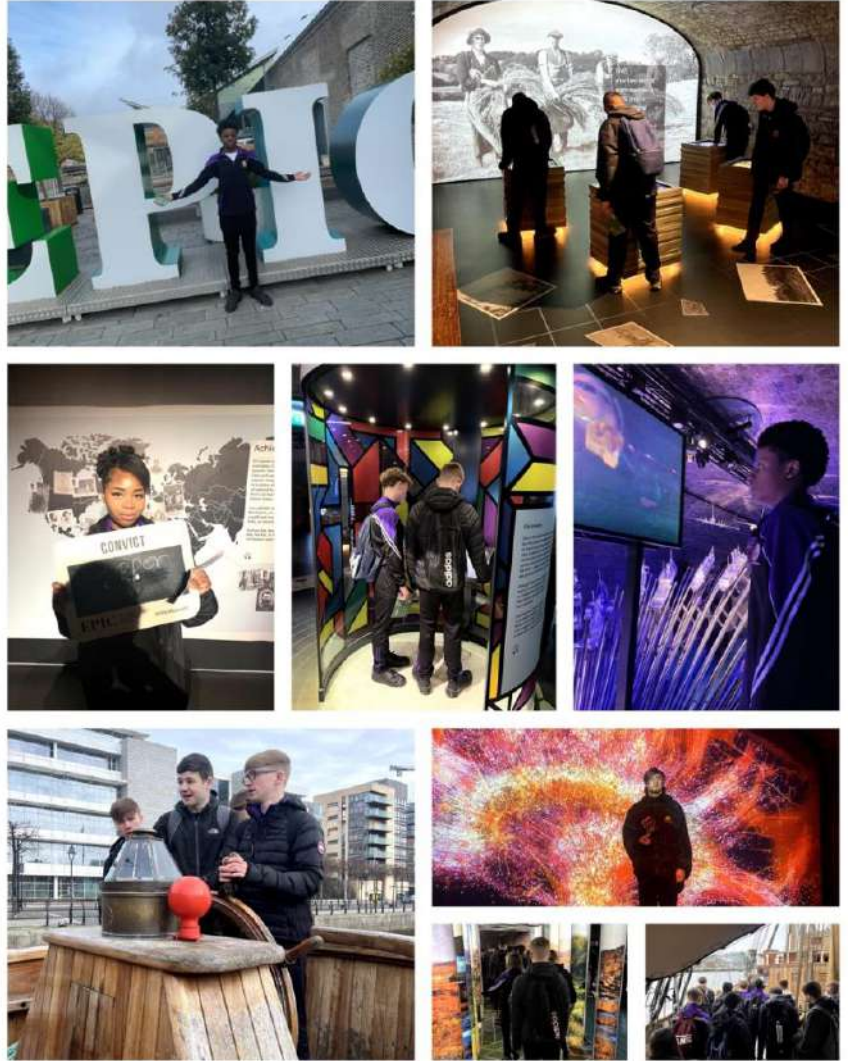
On Wednesday the 20th of March, TYs spent their day juggling a number of circus tricks & creating some beautiful balloon art - thank you to Konar Halpin Circus School for helping our TYs with their clowning around!



EPIC & Jeanie Johnston Tour

TY students took a step back in time when they boarded the Jeanie Johnston famine ship to learn about the mass emigration of Irish people to America during the 19th century.

They also explored what it means to be Irish through the lives and stories of famous Irish musicians, sportspeople, politicians and more at EPIC, the Irish Emigration Museum.



Causey Farm

TY students got down and dirty and experienced some authentic Irish culture on Causey Farm with céilí dancing, soda bread baking and even some bog jumping!!!



First Aid Training

TY students completed an Introduction to First Aid course, during which they learned CPR and how to use a defibrillator, among many other things. They also completed their first part of Manual Handling training!



Viatrix Damastown

Thank you to Viatrix Damastown for hosting some of our TY students last week as part of STEPS Engineers Week, introducing our students to the work of engineering, technology and pharmaceuticals.



BT Young Scientist

The BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) returned in January for its 60th edition and what a celebration of science and technology it was! Our very own TY scientists Ava Power Martin, Leah Moore & Yuvonne Nwabiakam, and the wonderful Ms Sheehan represented Le Chéile Secondary School at this year's BT Young Scientist Exhibition at the RDS. Their research study is entitled DOCU-TOK and it investigated our ability to retain information.

On the first day, they had some very special visitors to their stand - An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar & Virgin Media News! The girls' project received high praise from everyone who looked at their work and their project received a 'Display Award' for the intermediate category in social and behavioural sciences.

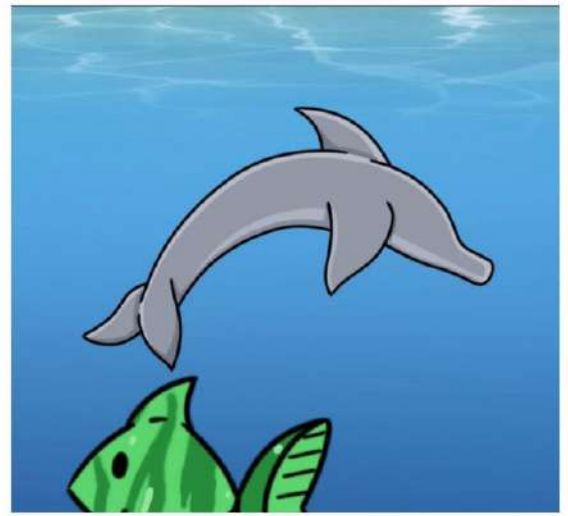
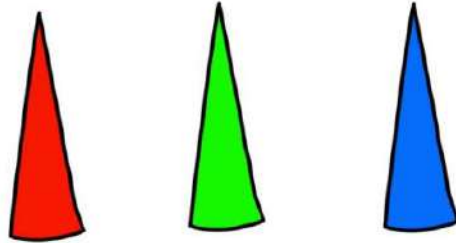


Senior Cycle

Hamlet

On Wednesday the 13th of March, 6th year students enjoyed a day at the theatre where they watched Hamlet, the Shakespearian play that they are studying for the Leaving Cert, live on stage. Thank you to the English Department for organising another great theatre trip!





Fresh Film

We are thrilled to announce 'The Science of Colour Vision', a short film by two of our extremely talented 6th year students, Bea Gicale and Chloe Forde, is making it's way to the big screen! You can check it out in selected Omniplex Theatres on Sunday the 21st of April.

Here's what Fresh film had to say: "We are delighted to inform you that your film, 'The Science of Colour Vision', has been chosen to be a part of this distinguished program. This recognition is a testament to the exceptional quality and creativity demonstrated in your work... Your contribution to this event not only highlights your talent but also contributes to the broader celebration of emerging filmmakers."





Sport

Girls Basketball

The 2nd Years Girls Basketball Team won their East Region Final in dramatic fashion with some huge baskets in overtime. Final score from the Oblate Hall: Le Chéile Secondary School 48, Alexandra College 40.

The 1st Years Girls team reached the semi-final but unfortunately lost to Maryfield College. Well done girls!



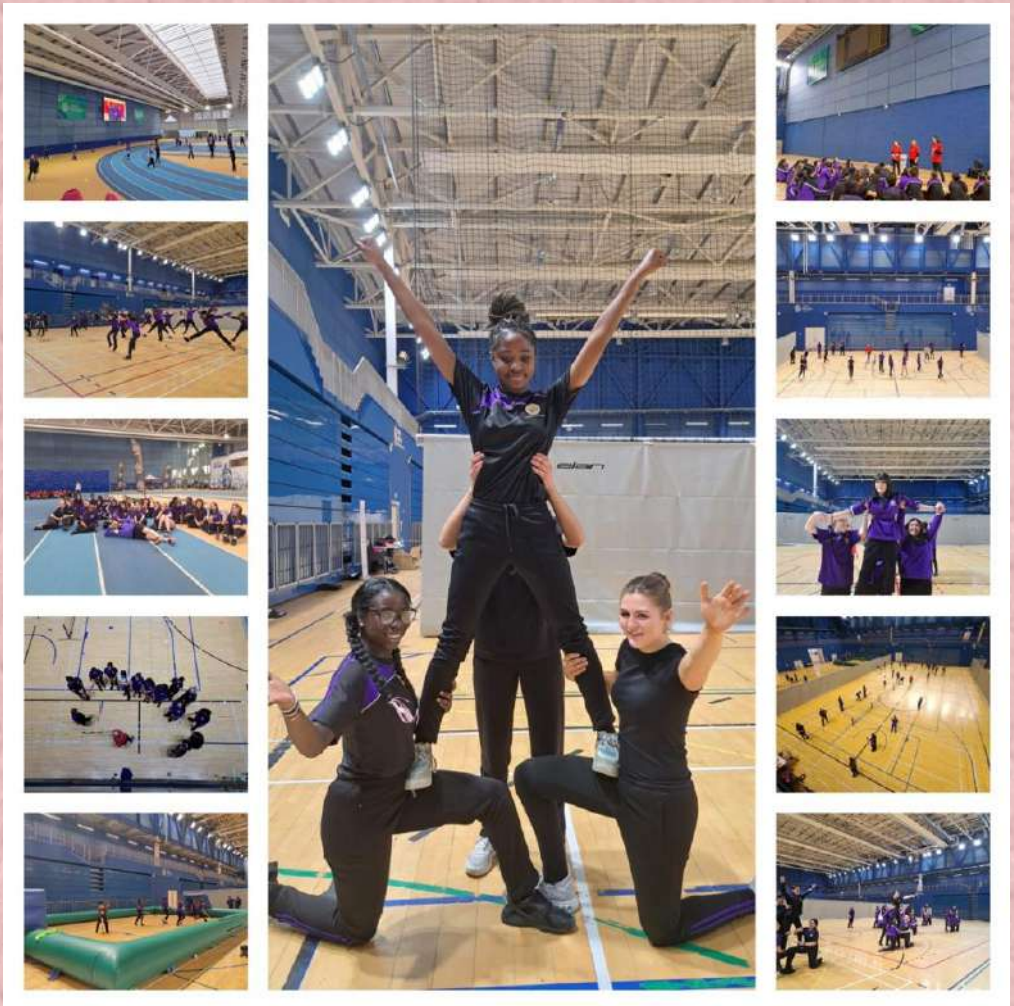
Looking to Get Involved in Sport?

There are lots of extra-curricular sports teams at Le Chéile including, but not limited to, football, basketball, volleyball, and badminton. Check in with the PE department for more information!



Women in Sport

30 senior girls attended the Women in Sport conference at the Sport Ireland campus on the 6th of March. Here, they were given the opportunity to participate in a range of activities which they thoroughly enjoyed and where they represented the school very well with their exemplary behaviour and attitude!



Boys Basketball

At the beginning of this year, after months of hard work and training, the U16's boys basketball team managed the great achievement of playing in the All Ireland Quarter Final in the National Basketball Arena. They also won the title of Leinster Final runners-up, a great success for themselves and for the school and we are so proud of them!

Boys U19y Football

Champions!! It was no Blue Monday for our u19s Football Team who won the Metropolitan Cup in a superb 5-1 win against Fingal Community College on Monday, 15th of January. Well done to all the squad and management!

