Spring 2026 Newsletter

Welcome to the Spring 2026 edition of the Le Chéile Secondary School Newsletter!

In this issue you will find interesting articles, updates, and photos of all the amazing things our students and staff have been up to over the last few months. Our students have travelled to the west of Ireland and abroad, represented us on stage in song and dance, made works of art, and raised lots of money for charity.

Read all about it over the next few pages!

Dates for your Diary

14th of April: Incoming 1st Years Information Evening

16th -17th of April: Picture Day

27th of April—1st of May: Italian Exchange in Ireland

4th of May: May Bank Holiday—No school

5th—8th of May: School Culture Week

7th of May: Sports Day

19th of May: TY Graduation

21st of May: 6th Year Graduation

22nd of May: Awards Ceremony

25th—29th of May: House Exams

3rd of June: State Exams Begin

Message from the Principal

Spring is a truly lovely season. The days feel a little lighter, and all around us we begin to notice new life emerging as the first buds make their appearance.

As always in Le Chéile, this term has been marked by great activity, and as you make your way through our newsletter you will find many examples of our students engaging positively in school life across a wide range of areas.

You will know our root beliefs well, one of which is: "We can transform the world with our creativity." This belief came to life in our Transition Year school production in March. 'Sister Act' was an outstanding showcase, giving every student the chance to blend their natural abilities with the shared experience of being part of a team. The dedication and enthusiasm of the cast and production team were evident, and their efforts delighted audiences across the three performances.

Extracurricular opportunities play a significant role in helping young people stretch their abilities and develop into well-rounded individuals. Our teachers give generously of their time to offer such a breadth of activities, and I wish to express my appreciation for their support and their commitment to the extra- and co-curricular life of the school.

As the term drew to a close, our 3rd Year students engaged thoughtfully in choosing their subjects and programmes for the Leaving Certificate. They approached the mock examinations with determination, and we hope they now have a clearer sense of how to direct their efforts for the remainder of the year.

Our 6th Year students continue to work diligently as they prepare for their Leaving Certificate exams, while also beginning to imagine the world beyond the doors of Le Chéile. We keep them—and all our students and families—in our prayers throughout this Easter season, especially those who are completing their oral exams over the break.

Finally, I would like to thank our parents for their ongoing support. As the holiday begins, I wish all our students and their families a very happy and holy Easter. May the hope at the heart of the Easter story be felt by each of you.

Mrs. Leona Harrington

Principal

Message from the Deputy Principals

As we move from the darkness of winter into the light and promise of spring, we are reminded of the hope and renewal that Easter brings. In our school, this message is grounded in our animating principle: "*God is love, love is here*." At Easter, we are reminded that this love is shown through care for others, sacrifice, forgiveness and new beginnings. This calls us to bring kindness, compassion and hope into our daily interactions and to support one another as a community.

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of another busy and vibrant term. The weeks have flown by, filled with energy, enthusiasm and a strong sense of belonging. Our students continue to live out our root beliefs each day, recognising that *small things matter*, striving to be their *best selves*, and showing that *we are all teachers , all learners, always*.

This term has been full of wonderful highlights, and we encourage you to enjoy reading about many of them throughout this newsletter. From Democracy Week to Young Scientist, Catholic Schools Week to the Gaeltacht and Seachtain na Gaeilge, and from the Italian Exchange to the Emmanuel Concert, there has been a real sense of energy and engagement across our school community. We were incredibly proud of our Transition Year students who lit up the stage in their fantastic production of Sister Act, showcasing creativity, teamwork and confidence. Our Junior Girls also achieved a brilliant success in winning their regional final, a testament to their hard work, dedication and team spirit.

We are very proud of the strong sense of social justice within our school community. We were delighted to welcome Gráinne from Trócaire, whose visit reminded us of the real and lasting impact we can have when we come together for others. This renewed sense of purpose inspired us as we prepared for our annual 5K Fun Run/Walk, and we thank all students and their families for their fundraising efforts. Every contribution truly makes a difference and reflects our belief that *Small Things Matter.* It is fantastic to see so many of our students getting involved, supporting one another and representing our school so positively. In doing so, you bring to life another of our core beliefs, *Seasaimid Le Chéile* (We Stand Together).

As we look ahead, we are especially mindful of our students preparing for CBAs, orals, practicals, and the upcoming state examinations. We encourage you to stay focused and remember that success is built on small efforts, repeated over time. We have every confidence in you.

Easter also offers an important opportunity to pause, rest, and recharge after a full and demanding term. It is a time to reflect, to appreciate how far we have come, and to look forward with hope to what lies ahead. As we celebrate this season, may it bring a sense of renewal, hope, and new beginnings to all members of our school community. May we continue to bring light, kindness and positivity into our school and into the lives of those around us.

We wish all our students and their families a peaceful, joyful and restorative Easter break.

Ms. Róisin Ní Dhonncha, Mr. Eoin Walshe, & Ms. Clodagh Carey

The Deputy Principals

Coláiste Uisce

Chuamar go dtí an Gaeltacht i gContae Maigh Eo. D'fhanamar i gColáiste Uisce agus bhí an turas go hiontach mar bhíomar go léir ar turas lenár gcairde. Rinneamar súrfáil agus bhí na tonnta ollmhór. Bhaineamar go léir an taitneamh as na trí lá i gColáiste Uisce agus tháinig feabhas ar ár gcuid Gaeilge ag an am céanna. Rinneamar eachtraí ar nós sup agus léim muid as an gcé! Ba mhaith linn go léir dul ar ais má faighimid seans eile dul ar ais go dtí Coláiste Uisce.

Le Chéile Day 2026

The 4th of March marked an incredibly important day for us at Le Chéile Secondary School. This was our 10th Le Chéile Day.

To commemorate this moment, we asked that our students continued to express our Root Beliefs in their everyday school lives.

These 7 Root Beliefs that we cherish so much are:

Small things matter. Kindness shapes our school.

We are all teachers, all learners, always. Each of us, students and teachers alike, give and grow.

Seasaimid Le Chéile. We stand as one, as a school and a community.

We are called to be our best self. Every day is a chance to grow and be better.

The Spirit fills us with joy. We choose to share it and follow it.

Differences are to be celebrated. They make us unique and stronger.

We can transform the world with our creativity. Our actions inside this school can make a difference outside of it.

Thank you to all students who created some amazing work to represent these Root Beliefs!

Le Chéile Mental Health Day 2026

As part of our journey towards achieving the Pieta Amber Flag, our school community came together to celebrate wellbeing and positive mental health.

Students took part in a range of activities including our Wall of Gratitude, DEAR – Drop Everything and Relax, Wellbeing Homework, and a special Feel-Good Habits: Staff Edition video. Our Welcome Committee also greeted everyone at the school doors with Shine green ribbons, spreading positivity from the very start of the day.

Together, we are building a supportive, connected, and resilient school community.

Italian Exchange

On the 9th of March, Ms. Cahill, Mrs. Barron, and Mr. Hollywood accompanied 17 students (12 first years and 5 second years) to Fermo, Italy on the Italian leg of our cultural exchange. For 5 days, students lived in the family homes of their partners, attended school, and took part in cultural activities in and around the town of Fermo.

While in Fermo, they were invited to the town hall where they were greeted by the Minister for Culture and Heritage who thanked them for coming to their town and for partnering with their local middle school, Istituto Comprensivo da Vinci-Ungaretti Fermo. They also met the Arch-Bishop of Fermo and the Mayor of Fermo!

One of the days they went on a hike on Colle San Marco. They were guided through the forest and brought to a cave-turned -Catholic-monastery called Eremo di San Marco with historic frescos painted on the walls. Next, they stopped in a nearby town called Ascoli where they visited Ascoli Piceno Cathedral and tasted the traditional stuffed olives of the region.

Students also worked in school with their partners on a digital workbook, documenting their time together, and even learning some Italian!

On the last day, students spent a day touring the Vatican museum and running around the famous sights of Rome before flying home, exhausted but proud of all they had done that week.

The Italians are coming to Ireland on the 27th of April for part two!

Art

In Ms. Cowley's art class the senior Cycle Claddagh art students looked at cityscapes inspired by one of the students recent trips abroad. These were then created in ceramic relief tiles. The students applied many skills within this project with each creating a very unique art piece.

And in Ms. Cowley's Visual Art class the First Year students were inspired by the Book of Kells in celebration of Seachtain na Gaeilge. They created their own manuscript graphic design pieces using a letter from their name as a starting point. Great work was created by this new rotation of students.

Classics Club

In February, the Classics Club spent an afternoon creating Mythology-Themed Valentines Day Cards to round off another successful term in the ancient world. And in March, the Classics Club took part in a trip to the UCD Classics Museum where they got to see and handle artefacts from the ancient world. While they were there, they took in a tour of the UCD Campus.

Spring Term in the Claddagh

In the period leading up to Easter, we not only continued developing our practical life skills, while some of us also focused on mainstream learning and preparations for the Junior Certificate exams, but we also took time to reflect on the meaning of Lent and Easter.

We had the pleasure of welcoming Ms. Khan, who shared her knowledge about the significance of Ramadan, as well as religious and cultural celebrations in Islam. Our students showed great enthusiasm while learning about and exploring the richness of a multicultural world.

We are very proud of Alex Conway, who successfully completed his work experience this month. During this time, he worked on the school grounds and also began carrying out organisational and cleaning tasks in the library.

As part of our sensory art activities, we created a variety of Easter-themed projects. We also practiced important social skills by reaching out to friends, neighbours, and family members to gain sponsorship in support of the 5km for Trócaire initiative.

We would like to wish everyone a wonderful and joyful Easter!

Fresh Film

We were thrilled to announce that 3 of our student short films made it to the Fresh Film Festival Finals! This red carpet event took place in the Mansion House on Thursday, the 26th of March. We also had a nomination for Best School!

Estera Calugarici: What goes on Behind. Nominated for the following awards: Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year, Best School and the RTÉ 60 Second Award. https://youtu.be/w9l4xM6K1Nk?si=0n3zqw9aMPDHiX4z

Aimy Sibi: Lost. Nominated for the following awards: Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year and the RTÉ 60 Second Award. https://youtu.be/WVz2MXs1Lt4?si=MxVrkkH9RYQRh9Gk

Emma Mercado: Through Her Eyes. Nominated for the following awards: Ireland's Young Filmmaker of the Year and the RTÉ 60 Second Award. https://youtu.be/JMKWqi9ATIo?si=O8wWLICIv8qaJblG

Literacy Week

To celebrate World Book Day and our Literacy Week, Mr. McKeever's 1st Year English class created their own unique bookmarks and let their creative side show!

To round off the week, 5th years took part in a game of countdown and put their vocab knowledge to the test! Congrats to winners Ann P, Keira K, Simas K, Sinead F, Nathania C.

Late-Free Class Competition

From Monday, the 19th of January to Friday, the 13th of February, Mr. Rushe and Ms. Lattin ran a punctuality drive with their year groups. Their aim was to improve punctuality encourage students to start the day right. The class who had the least amount of lates won a celebratory breakfast and any student who did not lose any points for lateness received a Certificate of Excellence!

Good News Trip

Our 1st and 2nd Year students recently enjoyed a well-deserved Good News Trip in recognition of their positive contributions to the Le Chéile community. As winners of the House of Half Term competition, all members of 1HK and 2HK , alongside students who did not lose points over the term were rewarded with a fun-filled outing to Jump Zone, followed by a trip to McDonald's. The trip was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate students' efforts, teamwork, and positive behaviour throughout the term.

Real Maths

One day in March, when the weather was very sunny and nice, Ms. Biskup took her 2nd Year Maths class to the park to estimate and measure the perimeter. We took our maths copies, pens and pencils, our calculators, and our trundle wheels. When we first got there, we estimated what we thought the perimeter was and wrote it down on a sheet of paper. We then used trundle wheels to measure appropriate sides to get the perimeter and area of the big green field. Once we got to the end of one side, we compared our estimate to the actual length. It was a lovely way to spend a sunny Friday.

By Emma Bozocean and Luoyi Chen

Sister Act—The TY Musical

After months of rehearsals, and hard work behind the scenes, our Transition Year students took to the stage from March 11th to 13th to present a spectacular production of Sister Act. From the opening scene to the final curtain call, the show was a celebration of the talent, teamwork, and determination of this year's TY group.

The cast delivered outstanding performances while the backstage crew ensured everything ran seamlessly. The production was a true testament to what can be achieved through collaboration. Seasaimid Le Chéile!

A sincere thank you goes to all those who supported the students throughout the process including our students' families and wider school community for their continued encouragement and raffle donations!

Contemplating Life After Le Chéile

6th years have been very busy these last few weeks as they think about their life once they have graduated in May.

Our 6th Year students attended the Apprenticeship Expo 2026 this term— a fantastic one-stop event showcasing jobs, apprenticeships, and further education opportunities. A great chance for students to explore their future pathways!

Our 6th Year students also had a great time at the Try a Trade event with Iarnród Éireann in March. Students got stuck into a range of fun, hands-on activities while exploring different trades and learning more about apprenticeship pathways. A great day of learning, trying new skills, and exploring future career options!

Our 6th Year students had a fantastic day at the Dunboyne College of Further Education Open Day in March. They explored the wide variety of courses on offer, got a feel for college and had the opportunity to speak directly with tutors and current students. A highlight of the day was meeting Ulreeka, the student support dog!

We were delighted to welcome representatives from Pfizer who visited our 6th Year students to showcase the exciting apprenticeship opportunities currently available. It was a really informative and engaging talk, giving students valuable insight into career pathways within the industry. Many thanks to Pfizer for taking the time to speak with our students. Applications are now open!

And finally a big thank you to Derek and Meabh from Dunboyne College of Further Education for visiting our school this term. Also, many thanks to Margaret from DCU for speaking with our 6th years about university life, course choices and the wide range of supports available. Our 6th Year students really enjoyed learning about the wide range of courses available and the many progression pathways open to them after school.

5th Year Trip to NUI Maynooth

Recently, our 5th year LCVP class visited Maynooth University to explore potential college courses and experience campus life. The trip gave us a valuable insight into what third-level education is really like.

When we arrived, we were welcomed by student ambassadors who guided us around the campus. The university grounds were impressive, with a mix of modern buildings and historic architecture.

We attended a short talk where we learned about different courses, entry requirements, and the wide range of opportunities available after graduation. I found this particularly helpful, as it gave me a clearer idea of the points needed and the subjects involved in courses I am interested in. The speakers also explained the importance of independent learning and time management in college.

Another interesting part of the visit was hearing about student life. There are many clubs and societies to join, which makes it easier to meet new people and get involved. This helped me realise that college is not just about studying, but also about personal development and new experiences.

Overall, the visit was very enjoyable and informative. It has encouraged me to start thinking more seriously about my future and the steps I need to take to achieve my goals.

Jigsaw Youth Voice

We are incredibly proud of our TY students, Emily Barcoe and Ethan O'Driscoll, who participated in Part Two of the Jigsaw Youth Voice Event in March. Students from Dublin 15 came together to create powerful artwork highlighting the mental health challenges faced by young people today. These pieces will be showcased in the Jigsaw centre in Blanchardstown. Guest speakers from Foróige and An Garda Síochána also shared their insights.

Celebrating Community Spirit: Sponsored 5K Success

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our entire school community for their incredible support of this year's Sponsored 5K. From our dedicated students to their parents and relatives, as well as members of our local neighbourhood, your enthusiasm and generosity made this event truly special.

A special word of appreciation goes to our staff, who not only gave so generously of their time but also contributed financially to the event. Your commitment continues to inspire.

We are delighted to share that, once again, we have exceeded our fundraising target, with over €4,000 raised so far for Trócaire. This achievement reflects the collective effort and goodwill of everyone involved.

Our Day of Hope provided more than just an opportunity to support those in need—it brought our community together in a meaningful way. It was wonderful to see everyone play their part, enjoying the mostly clear skies while also taking positive steps to boost our health and wellbeing.

Finally, sincere thanks to the School Leadership Team and the 5K Team for their ongoing support in organising and delivering this annual event. Your hard work behind the scenes ensures its continued success.

Seasaimid Le Chéile!

2nd Year Resilience Workshop

Our 2nd Year students enjoyed taking part in Stephen Kiernan's "Brilliant Mondays" workshop this term. Through fun and interactive activities, students explored ways to build confidence, resilience, and positive goal-setting skills. Well done to all who took part and embraced the challenge! A great reminder: "Small daily improvements always lead to exceptional results over time." – Robin Sharma.