



Blackwater Community School

Easter Newsletter 2025



A Chairde,

Please find enclosed an insight into our many School related events over the past couple of months.

Our Students have been very busy this term with various activities and events.

Parent Teacher Meetings

- Our 2nd Year PT meeting took place on Tuesday 4th of March
- Our 1st Year PT meeting was held on Thursday 13th of March

Entrance Assessment

The entrance assessment for incoming 1st Years for the 2025/2026 Academic Year was held on Saturday 8th of February.

Cairde

The Cairde continue to act as a support for our current 1st Year group. Applications are taking place soon for the incoming group of Cairde to be trained in time for next year.

BCS Golden Movies

Our Golden Movies afternoons continue and on Wednesday 26th of February our visitors enjoyed the showing of Casablanca and On Wednesday 26th of March we watched "Meet me in St Louis".

LCA

As part of their Enterprise module, LCA 1 organised a 'Spin-a-thon' to raise money for St. Carthage's House in Lismore. The event took place on **Tuesday 11th March** and ran throughout the school day. The goal was to keep the spin bikes going from 8am to 3pm, with staff and students taking turns in 30-minute slots.

Green Schools

We had our Green School's Inspection on Wednesday the 12th of March for our Travel Flag.

5th Year History Trip: Our 5th Year History students visited Derry. They had a guided tour of the City walls with a focus on contemporary history. They also visited the Apprentice Boys Memorial Hall. They spent a day in Belfast also.

Angus Beef: Well done to Sinead Geary, Katie Barnes and Summer Fenton who were in Croke Park on Friday 7th of March for the National Angus Beef Schools Finals and thanks to Ms Maher and Ms Casey for their work with the girls.



Congratulations: To Millie Mai O Donovan who won the Waterford City & County Purchase Prize at the launch of the Lismore Castle Arts Artifice Exhibition.

Interschools Music Festival: Well done to Ella Carthy who represented BCS in the Interschools Music Festival on the 1st of March.

Women in Sport Week: As part of Women in Sport Week which took place from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th of March, the following events took place during the week. On Tuesday 4th we had Guest Speaker Kate Veale and on Wednesday 5th a Women in Sport Webinar was held. Thanks to Ms Power for organising these events.



Debating: Our Debating Team took part in the ACCS Debate Competition on Monday 3rd of March against Pobalscoil na Tríonóide, Youghal. Well done to the team for a great debate.

CPR Training: A large number of our TY students completed CPR training before the Mid Term break with the remaining students training in the next couple of weeks. CPR is an important skill for anyone to learn. Well done to the students.



Munster Schools Cross Country: Well Done to our 3 athletes, Oscar Cunningham, Charlotte Norman and Ryan Whelan who competed in the Munster Schools Cross Country competition in Tramore Valley Park, Cork on Friday 14th of February. Congratulations to Charlotte Norman who finished in 12th position which qualified her for the All-Ireland which was held in Ballybrit, Galway on the 8th of March.

French Exchange: We welcomed the French exchange students and their teacher to our school in February. BCS Students travelled to France on Monday 31st of March for their part of the exchange. BCS students are enjoying their exchange. They visited Rennes city centre, experienced Breton dancing, enjoyed Crepes and spent time with their host families. The students also visited the beautiful Mont Saint Michel on a lovely sunny day.

LCA Information Evening: This took place on Thursday 27th of February at 7pm.

Weekly Themes: During this term we have enjoyed the following Weekly Themes: Science, Music, Engineers, **Seachtain na Gaeilge**, Green Schools and Yellow Flag. Various activities involving Students and Staff took place throughout these weeks. Thanks to all who took part.

LC Geography Field Trip: Well done to Leaving Cert Geography students who travelled to Ferrypoint near Youghal on Tuesday 4th of March to carry out their investigation of how processes of transport and deposition have shaped the coastline.

U17 Medal Presentation: Thanks to Paul Shankey, Waterford Senior Football Manager who came to BCS on Monday 10th of March to present Munster winning medals to our victorious U17 team.

Erasmus: Our LCA students will be travelling to Wilherring College in Linz, Austria in May on an Exchange. This is a great opportunity for our students. Thanks to Ms O'Brien and Ms Murphy for establishing this programme at BCS.

Prague Erasmus: During the first week of April we welcomed our Erasmus partners from Prague. The visitors joined our 2nd year students for classes, a walking tour of Lismore and gave us presentations on their school and culture. Well done to all 2nd years involved.

German Exchange: Our German students enjoyed life in Heidelberg on their recent exchange. They enjoyed a welcome breakfast on arrival and they took part in a workshop with their partners. They also went on a guided tour of Heidelberg.

Congratulations: To Nan Farrow (Past Pupil) on achieving a Johnson & Johnson Medtech Biomedical Engineering Scholarship.

TY: Our TY Future Leaders students organised and successfully ran a Primary School Blitz on Thursday the 20th of March from 10am to 2pm on the Astro and school pitch. We welcomed Lismore, Tallow, Ballynoe, Cappoquin, Whitechurch, Knockanore, Curraglass and Villierstown Primary Schools to BCS. It was a fantastic day and well done to our TYs, Ms Gildea and Ms McGrath for all their hard work.

Rice Cup Hurling: Well done to our U14 Hurling team who played extremely well in UL recently. They defeated Midleton CBS, Ard Scoil Ris and Tullamore. They were beaten by Neneagh CBS. The team progressed to the Quarter Final on Monday 24th of March and they were narrowly beaten by Midleton CBS. Well done to the team on their hard work and performance on the day. The scoreline on the day was 3-8 to 2-14.

MTU Speaker: Caroline Kearney, School Liaison Office for Munster Technological University visited BCS on Tuesday 25th of March to speak to our 5th year students. She discussed course options on offer in both their Cork and Kerry Campus.

TY Achill Trip: Our TY students travelled to Achill on Wednesday 2nd of April. They enjoyed various activities over the 3 days. This trip was part of their Gaisce Award.



Autism Awareness Week: Hub staff members namely Annabella, Fintan and Pa Walsh dyed their hair blue to raise autism awareness, while badges and wristbands were distributed to staff. An Ice Bucket challenge was held on Friday 11th of April in the Astro. Over 30 staff took part. Thanks to all our volunteers!

The “Hub of activity” exhibition took place in the staff room recently, all made by students in the Hub. To continue celebrating Autism Acceptance week at BCS, students in the Hub played ‘lollipop bingo’ with TY students for reverse inclusion.

SNA Appreciation Day: This took place on Tuesday 8th of April and all SNA staff were surprised by treats and lunch outside highlighting their recognition and appreciation while the sun was shining and the craic was mighty!

Walkathon completed: Thanks so much to all staff and students that contributed to the Hubs trek around the coast of Ireland 2,286.63Km in total. Well done to Joseph on keeping track of everyone.

Hub Breakfast Club: This is commencing Wednesday morning after the Easter holidays (8.10 to 8.33 am) and hope to continue for the remainder of the term.

Lamh training: This took place on Monday 7th of April for twelve staff focusing on 100 words.

All Ireland Badminton: Well done to the BCS students who took part in the All-Ireland Schools Badminton Finals recently in Gormanstown, Co Meath. Our U14 and U19s have both brought back All Ireland Titles to BCS. Congratulations to both teams and to Sheena Wilkinson. Also we thank the boys Badminton Clubs in Ballyduff, Lismore and Blackwater Juvenile in Cappoquin for all their hard work and support preparing the boys for the finals.



U19 Soccer: Well done to our U19 Boys Soccer team who have qualified for the Munster Final. This is a fantastic achievement and we wish the boys the very best of luck with their training over the coming weeks.

Chess: On Friday 28th March 20 students (3 teams) represented BCS in our first Chess Schools Competition in Kilkenny. Well done to all who took part.

Future Leaders: Our TY Future Leaders students ran a very successful Primary School Blitz on Thursday the 20th of March. We welcomed Lismore, Tallow, Ballynoe, Cappoquin, Whitechurch, Knockanore, Curraglass and Villierstown Primary Schools to BCS. Well Done to all TY's involved and to Ms McGrath and Ms Gildea for their help organising the day.

Grandparents Mass: BCS are delighted to invite the Grandparents of all Transition Year students to a special Grandparents' Mass on Wednesday 30th of April from 11:00am to 1:00pm.

School Re-opens on Monday 28th of April

Wishing everyone a very Happy and Enjoyable Easter!

Wesołego Alleluja

Bonnes Pâques

Frohe Ostern

Felices Pascuas

Denís Ríng



Príncípáil Blackwater Community School