



# SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE

STUDENT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

## A Message from Acting Principal Ms. McManus

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we approach the Easter break, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many wonderful things happening at Sancta Maria. The past few months have been incredibly busy, filled with growth, achievement, and vibrant school life.



One of the highlights has been seeing our students engage with their learning by setting SMART targets, guided by the valuable formative feedback from their teachers. This approach is helping them take greater ownership of their learning and strive towards reaching their full academic potential. A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated and talented team of teachers, whose professionalism, care, and expertise have supported and inspired your child throughout this term.

Beyond the classroom, it has been a joy to witness the wide range of extracurricular activities that continue to enrich the life of our school. Highlights include the unforgettable ski trip to Italy, which brought both adventure and camaraderie, and the wide range of sporting activities that continue to flourish. We are especially proud of our senior Gaelic football team, who made history by winning the Leinster Title. Successes in badminton, basketball, hockey, camogie and cross-country have also brought great pride to our school community.

The arts have been equally alive in our corridors. Our TY students wowed us with their energetic and entertaining production of *Legally Blonde: The Musical*, and our school choir gave a stunning performance at the Emmanuel concert in the Helix—moments that truly captured the joy and talent within our student body.

We are particularly proud of all our student leaders, who continue to play an active role in shaping the future of our school. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work of our Green Schools Committee, who are working hard to raise environmental awareness and achieve our Green Schools Flag. A special mention also goes to our Student Council, who developed and led informative and engaging assemblies on study tips to help their peers prepare for the upcoming summer exams.

As our 6<sup>th</sup> Year students prepare for their Irish and modern foreign language oral exams, we wish them every success. We know that their dedication and perseverance will stand to them in the months ahead.

Finally, I would like to wish all members of our school community a peaceful and refreshing Easter break. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

Best wishes,

Sorcha McManus

Acting Principal

## A Message from Acting Deputy Principal Mr. Flynn



A big thank you to everyone for all their contributions to this newsletter. It shows how much has happened in the College since Christmas in both curricular and extra-curricular activities.

So much has happened, it is not possible to include everything but a special thanks to all our student leadership teams who have contributed positively to school life and to creating a positive school environment for everyone.

Well done to all our third and sixth year students who completed their Music, Home Economics, Art and LCVP practical work for their state examinations. We are very happy with our first group of LCA students (5a5) who have completed all of their tasks to date and best wishes to them in their state examinations coming up in the last term. Best wishes also to our Leaving Certificate students who have their oral examinations in Irish and Modern Foreign Languages during the Easter holidays.

As always please feel free to give feedback on any aspect of school life and it will be taken on board as we plan for the future. Finally, I wish all members of the school community all the blessings of Easter and best wishes for the last term of the academic year. We are all looking forward to coming back refreshed and ready to engage with all that is planned in the last term.

Best wishes,  
Martin Flynn

Acting Deputy Principal

# Seachtain na Gaeilge

A chairde Gaeil,

I mbliana rinne an choláiste ceiliúradh ar Sheachtain na Gaeilge ón 10ú - 14ú Márta. Bhí a lán imeachtaí éagsúla idir lámha againn le linn na seachtaine, gach rud idir céilithe agus comórtais póstaer. Léigí libh chun cur síos a fháil ar cad a bhí ar bun againn.

This year the college celebrated SnaG from the 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> of March. There was a variety of different events taking place, everything from céilí's to poster competitions. Keep reading to find out more.

## Céilithe:

During the week, a céilí was organised for each year group. Each class was taught a dance or two. They practised the steps and then performed the dance at the end. Each student had a lot of fun participating in this activity!



## Feirm Causey:

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of March, the TY group headed to Causey Farm for their annual trip. The organisers had arranged a lot of various activities for them – such as, Irish dancing, baking, bodhrán playing and visiting and petting the farm animals.

However, the highlight on the day was the Bog Jumping activity that the group were invited to participate in. It was amazing to see how willing most of the group were to take part in this activity.

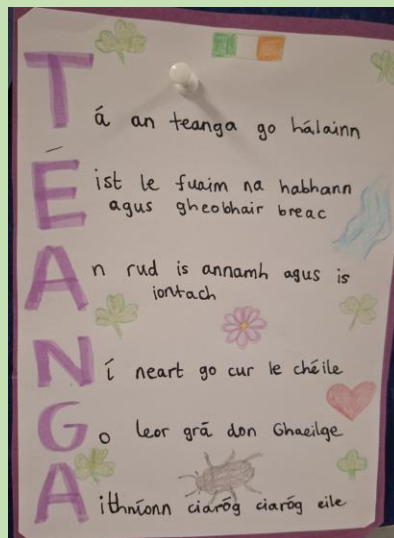
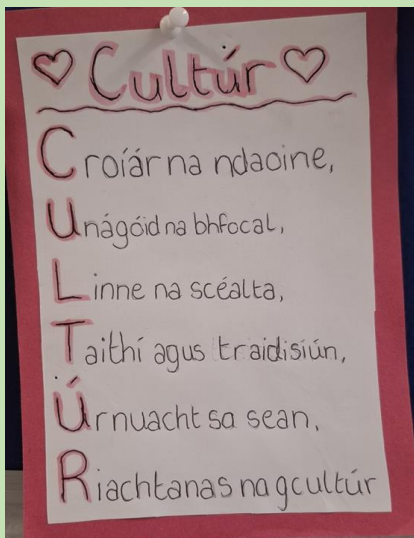


## Poster Competition

Two different poster competitions were held with 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Years. The 1<sup>st</sup> Years were asked to create a poster based on a ‘Seanfhocal’ and the 5<sup>th</sup> Years were asked to create an Acrostic Poem as Gaeilge and design a poem based on the poem that they had written.

The winners are as follows:

- 1ú Bliain – Yara Eiadat, Charlotte Holohon agus Imaan Alhamdy
- 5ú Bliain – Ella Griffin, Saisha Okeke, Fedora Chandrasekar, Ruby Pollard, Maryam Yassin, Katie Benton, Lauren Mc Cabe, Annaleigh O’Brien Jennings, Breda Condrón, Ciara Cooley agus Megan Goggins.



## Cóisir Tae Glas:

A Green Tea Party was held with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Year students.

They were asked to bake something 'Green' at home and then bring it into school.

They then got to share their bakes with each other and enjoy them over a cup of tea and listen to some Irish traditional music.

## Buíochas:

The Irish Department would like to extend thanks to everyone who took part in the events that were organised for Seachtain na Gaeilge and to anyone who helped us in any way.



## First Year Sewing Club

1st Year Sewing Club met on Thursdays at 1.00 in Room 5.

This term we made new cushion covers for the cushions in the Nurture Room, much to Paddington's delight!



## Camogie 2024/2025

This year in Sancta Maria College, we were delighted to receive a new set of camogie jerseys from sponsor Herman White. These jerseys will be worn by both of our teams this year, the u14s and the u16s.



The u16 team had an excellent competition that finished in January. They lost their first match vs Coláiste Cillian despite the excellent skill on show but had a great win against Coláiste An Phiarsaigh. They played their round of 16 game against St. Louis in Rathmines at the beginning of November and had a fantastic scoreline of 8-12 to 1-0.

The team had another win against Luttrellstown Community College in the quarter-final on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November. A terrific win in the semi-final vs Coláiste Cois Life saw the u16 team through to the final. The final was a very exciting match, but unfortunately, we came up just short, taking home the silver medals. However, the sponsors helped cheer the team up that day by promising to buy the u16 team jumpers!



Our u14 team have now played their four league matches against Castleknock Community College, Gaelcholáiste Reachrann, Manor House Raheny and Scoil Caitriona. The team have won three of these matches, with the latest scoreline of 5-9 to 2-3, and will now progress to the next stage of the competition. We can't wait to see how far they will go!

## TY Enterprise



Congratulations to our TY students that were chosen to represent Sancta Maria College at the South Dublin Finals of the Student Enterprise Programme.

Our finalists were Grace (GF Coasters) - who made a big impression on the judging panel and Ellie, Charlie and Sally (Ceird Design) - winners of best display on the day.



# First Year Science Club

The 1st Year Science Club has been full of excitement as students explore different areas of science through hands-on experiments. Here's a glimpse at some of the thrilling activities that have been completed so far:

- **Alkali Metals in Water:** Watching lithium, sodium, and potassium react explosively in water.
- **Flame Test:** Creating colourful flames by burning different metal salts.
- **Vinegar & Baking Soda Balloon:** Producing carbon dioxide to inflate a balloon.
- **Magic Milk Experiment:** Using dish soap to create swirling colour patterns in milk.
- **Density Rainbow:** Layering sugar-water solutions to form a colourful liquid rainbow.

These fun and interactive experiments have been sparking curiosity and excitement among 1<sup>st</sup> year students!

All 1<sup>st</sup> year students are welcome to come along to 1<sup>st</sup> Year Science Club every Wednesday at lunchtime!



# Student Council

Throughout the year, the Student Council has accomplished many great things for our school. As one of the student leadership groups of our community, we have led with passion and purpose, ensuring that every student feels heard and valued.

Recently, we held a meeting with senior management to update them on our initiatives and discuss student suggestions that were made via the suggestion boxes in well-being classrooms.

Many of these ideas have been successfully implemented, including the addition of mirrors and clocks throughout the school and allowing shorts as part of the PE uniform during the good weather.

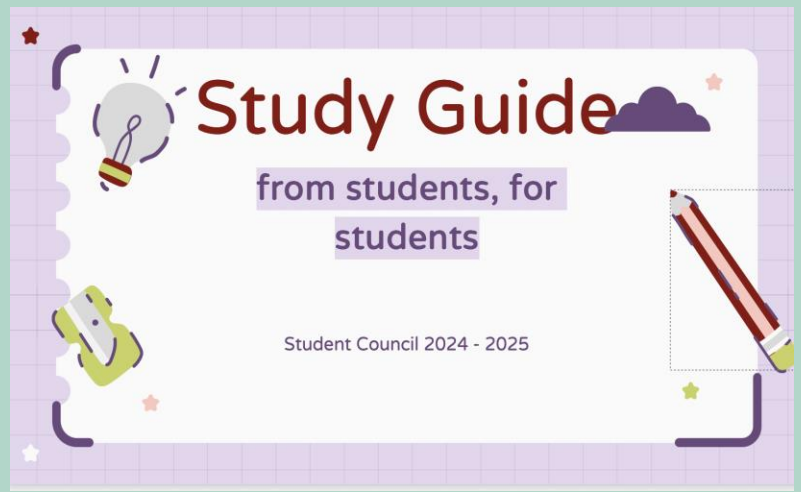


There were lots of other suggestions put forward and we will update the school community when we have definitive answers.

The Student Council has also organized several positive events for different year groups. One highlight was Movie Night, which not only brought students together but also served a greater purpose — raising funds for our annual food drive.

Last year, we raised over €1,000 through this initiative. Additionally, our Food Drive has been a tremendous success, providing essential support to families in need within our school community.

To further support students, we created a Study Tips presentation for students by students designed to ease academic pressure and promote effective learning strategies.



To celebrate and reward the council's hard work, we have planned a trip to the Dáil on May 15th.

Also, 3 members of the council will be attending our trustees, CEIST, Student Leadership Conference on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May.

## First Year Movie Club

1st Year Movie Club meets 1.00 - 1.30 on Mondays , in Room 201.

This is a relaxing time out to meet up with your friends and enjoy a movie together.

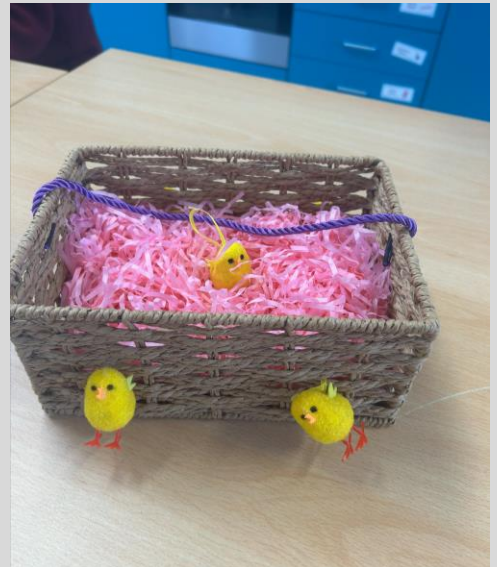
All welcome!



# Home Economics

## 1st Year Home Economics

This term, 1<sup>st</sup> year students started practising their sewing skills focusing on embroidery stitches. They have also been busy making Chicken Stir-Fry and Easter Nests which involved a competitive side when creating their Easter Baskets!

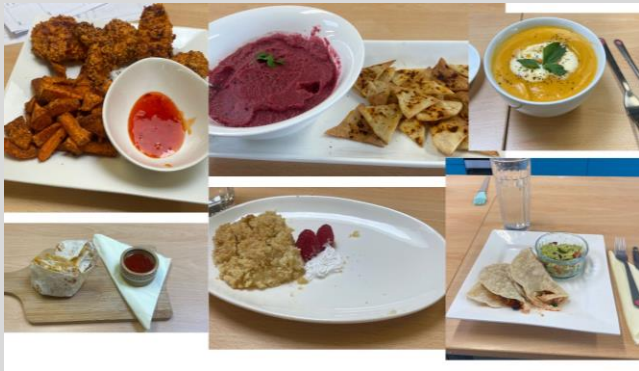


## 2nd Year Home Economics

2<sup>nd</sup> years have loved being back to cooking this term in Home Economics with dishes including Smarties Cookies, Chicken Curry, Sponge Cakes, Chilli Con Carne and Apple Tart.



## 3rd Year Home Economics



The focus in this term for 3<sup>rd</sup> years has been getting ready for their practical exams.

They have done a lot of practising of their dishes making sure their skills are perfect.

We wish them the best of luck with their practical exams!

## TY Home Economics

Transition Year students have been working hard both cooking and sewing this term. They have made an array of different dishes and have put their sewing skills to good use making bunting and making their own pencil cases out of different fabrics.



## Athletics

The first event in the Athletics calendar 2025 was the West Leinster Cross Country Championships. This was held in the Phoenix Park on Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Running conditions were very good. Teams competed at Minor, Junior and Senior Level, running distances from 1200m to 2000m. All teams completed the course, finishing well out of a huge number of runners. Congratulations to Sarah Nagle from 5<sup>th</sup> year who qualified for the Leinster Championships with her 13<sup>th</sup> place finish.



The track and field championship takes place on April 29<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> in Santry. Great numbers have been trying out for sprints, relays, jumps and throws over lunchtimes. A big well done to those who are 'having a go' at events new to them.

## Badminton

For the third consecutive year, our U.19 team reached the Dublin Colleges' final in Whitehall Road. After winning for the last two year, hopes were high for 'three in a row'. However, the team came up against very strong opponents in Sandford Park.

After the singles matches, the score was 2-2. But the doubles pairings proved too strong for SMC and the final score was 4- 2 in favour of Sandford Park.

On a positive note, all same players will be u.19 again next year. Well done to our U.16 teams who also reached play off stages of their competition – our A team knocked out a semi-final stage and our B team at quarter final stage.

The badminton season is drawing to a close at Easter. Well done to everyone who attended training on Tuesday evenings after school.



## Basketball

A big thank you to school management for the new basketball kit for our school teams.

The old one did not owe us anything- in use for over 10 years! Let's hope there will be lots of victories in the new one.

## TY PE

Following the great success of their musical, TYs were happy to head off to The Vault Gym, Tallaght for three weeks during PE class. Here they sampled box fit, circuits and spin classes.

In addition, all students were given free guest passes. Many have made use of these already.



With the improving weather, we next headed off to Bray for a hike up to the cross.

The day could not have been better. Blue skies, sunshine and 99s were the order of the day.



Hopefully we will be as lucky with the weather for our trip and quiz in Dun Laoghaire.

## School Mascot

Over the last week or two, a friendly fox has arrived in SMC and appears happy to stay with us as our School Mascot.

Suggestions for names have been coming in. Keep them coming. There will be an Easter Egg as a prize for the best suggestion.



Our School Mascot is already thinking of Sports Day – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May.





# Horticulture

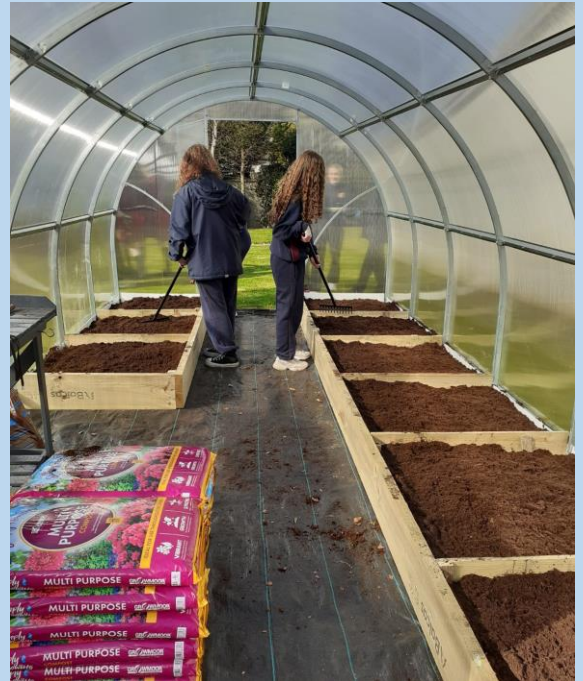
Great news, the polytunnel arrived and is up and running, thanks to the great work of Mihai – creating 9 super beds in the tunnel.

TY students worked hard to prepare the beds during their horticulture class. First sowings of beetroot, radish and swiss chard have been made.

We also moved some of the outdoor strawberries into the polytunnel – maybe we'll see an early crop.

Ms. Healy and Ms. Sherry also extended the wildflower bed for this season, while all the time trying to deter our resident foxes. Lots of help from Ms. Healy's class too!

A good shaking of chilli powder around the perimeter seems to have worked.



Finally, Ms. McAuley and some of the 5<sup>th</sup> year Art students are working on an Art installation for the garden.

Keep an eye out on further developments.

# World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday, March 6th, the English Department organised a number of activities to get SMC in the mood to read!

All students across the school enjoyed a 'Drop Everything and Read' class, where they could indulge in some reading for pleasure.

In Wellbeing classes, students were given the opportunity to show off their creative skills in a 'Design a Bookmark' competition.



Some fifth and sixth year students kindly gave up their time and shared their love of reading in Book Talks delivered to all first-year English classes.

First years got some great recommendations from the senior students!



In addition, all teachers displayed a 'What I'm Reading' poster on their classroom doors, which generated a lot of discussion with students and fellow staff!

Well done to everyone who took part in the activities.

Remember, the school library is open every lunch-time, so why not come in and curl up with a good book!



# TY Musical

Most musicals are evaluated on how good the performance was, the singing, acting, dancing, sets and costumes and this year's performance was all of that and more. A magical week for our whole school community.

Our TY students worked very hard since the start of September every Friday and at weekends during the month of January. A dedicated talented group of students who not only came together and hosted an amazing performance, but who created positive energy and passion for what our musical stands for- a time for new experiences, fun, laughter, new friendships, listening skills, time management skills, sharing ideas and most of all caring and supporting one another throughout the whole journey.

We are very proud of you! Well done.

A huge thank you to our senior management, all staff, parents and guardians, Parent's Association and B.O.M for all your support.



# TY Activities

## Barista

On February 13th, our TY students attended a Barista Training course. Who doesn't like great coffee from our TY students! A fun filled day and another skill.



## Transition Year Assessment and Subject Fair

The month of March saw the TY completing assessment tests, attending our annual subject fair facilitated by our careers department, teachers and senior cycle students. A time to put the head together in focusing on areas of subject choice.

## Causey Farm



Every student needs some fresh air after assessments, so on March 13<sup>th</sup> TYs headed to Causey Farm facilitated by our Irish Department.

They had a fantastic time enjoying the lambs, puppies, cows, bog jumping and brown bread making and performing the bodhran!!

# Music

Congratulations to our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year music students who completed their Practical performance exam last week.

Our Emmanuel Choir participated in great singing in the Helix on March 11<sup>th</sup>.



The Choir rehearses every Tuesday in the Music Room.

The choir has students from 1st year to 6th year and all are welcome every year to join.

Well done to our soloist, Imogen Watson from 6th Year.



# Leaving Certificate Applied



5A5 are well into their stride at this stage. They have completed Module 1 and celebrated their good results in style. Their first task and interviews have been completed and 5A5 are well underway with their 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> tasks in Hair and Beauty, VPG and Reflection.

Many first years are delighted to have had their nails done on a Thursday afternoon by the students of the Hair and Beauty module.

As is the norm in the LCA Programme, there is never a dull moment. 5A5 have gone on lots of trips this term, including a visit to a mosque, to a retail centre and to Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann. Many more trips are planned for after Easter.