

Holy Family Community School, Rathcoole

Minister Norma Foley Visits HFCS:

We were delighted to welcome Minister for Education Norma Foley to our school on 29th May 2024. Minister Foley confirmed that the building works for our new school building are expected to commence this summer. We are very grateful to be at this stage, and we look forward to seeing this project progress in the coming months.



Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

Our students who completed their Junior Cycle in June 2023 received their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement! This certificate acknowledges students' achievements and contributions to school life, both inside and outside the classroom. Well done to all students on their achievements and we wish them the best of luck with the remainder of their Senior Cycle.



Sports Day:

We recently had an absolutely fantastic Sports Day! Students and teachers participated in a wide range of activities, from tug of war to 3-legged races, skipping to basketball, dancing to volleyball, and everything in between! There was a fantastic atmosphere around the school and it was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who took part! Check out our social media channels for videos of the day @hfcsrathcoole!

Sport:

There is a wide range of sports for students to participate in at HFCS. Most recently, our Athletics team had huge success in both the West Leinsters, and the Leinster Finals in Tallaght. Students came home with medals from a wide variety of events, and the school also won awards for overall 2nd Years, 3rd Years, Overall Boys, Overall Girls, Overall Seniors, and Overall Best School. As always, the students represented our school so well, and we couldn't be more proud of them!

A number of students also competed in the Leinster Schools final, with Cormac Dixon winning silver in the Boys Senior 1500m, and Jakub Ciomek winning the U16 mile. Both students go on to compete in the All-Irelands in Tullamore on Saturday 1st June, and we wish them the very best of luck!

Both our U17 girls and our U17 boys won their regional final, but unfortunately were beaten in their respective semi-finals. Our 1st Year Girls' soccer team had huge success this year, reaching the Leinster semi-final, where they narrowly lost out on penalties. This team has played so well all year long, and we are excited to see what the future holds for them!

Sport is a huge part of life in HFCS, and the students who participate in all our sports teams are wonderful representatives of our school. We are so proud of their achievements.



HFCS Beo Group:

The Beo Programme was established in HFCS in 2022, with the main aim of enriching the learning, skills, and opportunities of students who have been identified as having a high IQ. During 2022-2023, the Beo Programme had 19 members, who received guest lectures on Contract and European Law, Physiology of Myocardial Infraction, and Protecting my Gift. In addition to this, students engaged in events such as Venus Moon Watch with Astronomy Ireland, the Junior Cup (AI) with Microsoft Ireland and the All-Ireland Linguistics Olympiad. Students also had a workshop on Rubik Cube and Algorithms.

The Beo Initiative in HFCS welcomed 14 more members in December 2023, resulting in a cohort of 33 students from 1st to 6th year.

Over the past couple of months, students have engaged with numerous guest lectures, including: “Epi” + “Genetics” by Ríona Burke, PhD student at Exeter University, “How did you end up here?” by Dr. Darragh Ennis, Neuroscientist and ITV Chaser, “Writing for a Living” by Dr. Kevin Power, Assistant Professor of Literacy Practice, Trinity College, “The role of the Archaeologist” by Paul Duffy, Associate Director of IAC Archaeology, “International Business” with Jason Maher from Woodies/Grafton Group, and “HPAT and Medicine Entry”, by Caoimhe Healy, 4th Year Medicine Student in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Beo members have also participated in the All-Ireland Linguistics Olympiad (AILO), IMTA Pi Quiz and the Team Maths event, and the Dream Space Ambassador Programme with Microsoft Ireland.

Planning for 2024/2024 is underway with guest lectures in Organic Chemistry, and Graphs and Networks starting in September 2024, followed by a course in Chinese Mandarin.

Transition Year

Transition Year students have been extremely busy this academic year. They have undertaken a wide range of projects, workshops, and educational trips. These include programmes such as the Bridge To College programme, Tenderfoot, Localise Community Youth Project, work experience, and STEM Passport for Inclusion. They have also participated in many workshops that will teach them skills for life, for example a barista workshop, a first aid course, a forensics workshop, visits to CCJ SFX workshop Gaisce Bronze Award, driving lessons, the works!



Students also engaged with the local community in a number of different ways, most recently getting involved with the Pieta House Zumba challenge, and painting jam jars for the silent kilometre in Corkagh Park's Darkness Into Light. These jam jars were used to hold candles and light the way on the walk. These actions helped to raise vital funds for Pieta House and the wonderful work that they do. It was a fabulous experience for them, to come together to spread a message of hope, love, and support.

Our TY students finished off their year with three days in Coláiste Acla, where they engaged in activities such as surfing, cliff-jumping, bog snorkelling, and walking the Wild Atlantic Way, and a trip to Bay Sports Waterpark in Athlone. They were two fantastic trips, and it was a wonderful end to a jam-packed year.

They celebrated their wonderful achievements with a fabulous graduation ceremony on 20th May. There were several awards given for exemplary actions throughout Transition Year. Congratulations to Alex Holmes and Julia Miricescu who won the 'Year Head Students of the Year' Award. We also had a number of other awards given on the day – well done to Samantha Malecka, Precious Fashina, and Anagha Prasanth, who won the 'Creativity and Innovation' award, Lasya Maddala, Sinéad O Driscoll, and Seán Caroll, who won the 'Dedication and Enthusiasm' award. Seán Moran, Callum McConville, and Meadow Fetherston won a 'Personal Development' award. Zuzanna Zelma, Robyn Dennis, and Grace Byrne won the award for 'Exemplary Commitment', and Noah Flannery, Rahaf Abdelaziz, and Zach O Reilly won the 'Tutor Student of the Year' awards!

They have been a brilliant group, and we wish them the very best of luck with the rest of their Senior Cycle.



International Trips:

Our 5th Year students travelled to Barcelona on a school tour. They toured Barcelona, visiting the many beautiful sites, over a 4-day period. They had an absolute ball, making memories for life!



Mentors:

Our mentors for academic year 2024-2025 have been preparing for their new role! They recently went on a team-bonding trip to Trinity College. Students participated in rock climbing and fencing activities, which was a great opportunity for them to get to know one another, and to build on their communication skills. They're a fabulous group of students, and we are really looking forward to working with them next year!



Class of 2024:

In the lead-up to our Graduation Ceremony, we had a fun afternoon for our students. They gathered together, reminiscing over their time in HFCS, fondly remembering the good times. We then had our annual student-teacher soccer match, which was an intense game ending in penalties, that resulted in the staff winning.



Our 6th year and LCA2 Class of 2024 graduated on 22nd May 2024. We had a wonderful ceremony in our Sports Hall, where we welcomed all graduands and their parents, and celebrated their time

with us in HFCS. It has been a pleasure to watch them learn, grow, and develop into the wonderful young adults they have become. We wish them the very best of luck with their futures!



Social Media:

Stay up to date with all of the wonderful things happening in HFCS, by following us on social media! We are on Instagram and Twitter @ hfcsrathcoole.



Have a great summer!

We'd like to wish a wonderful summer break to the community of HFCS, Rathcoole, and all surrounding areas!

