



BLACKWATER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

HALLOWEEN NEWSLETTER 2024



Dear Parent/Guardian

A thuismitheoirí dhíl, I would like to wish everybody a peaceful and enjoyable mid-term break. This newsletter affords me the opportunity to update you regarding some recent happenings and achievements at our school.

Calendar of Events

The calendar of events at BCS is continually updated and is available on the school website and app.

Personnel

We have welcomed the following new teachers Sinead Foley, Sinead Lawlor, Nikki O Connor, Tomás Walsh, Richard Hart, Aidan Kelly, Michelle O Donovan, Kate Batan, Jack O'Regan, Olympia Rea, Shauna Ryan, Jenny Lynch, Ellen Ní Laoghog, Briannagh McGrath, Trisha Cullinane and SNA Staff Pat Glasheen, Marian Dennehy, Muireann Burns, Ricardo Lopez.

PME Students: Ciara Browne, Abby Wall, Luke Walsh.

We extend our Best Wishes to David King who is still seconded to the NCCA.

Sympathies

Our sympathies to Edel Murphy on the recent loss of her father, Dave.

Our Condolences to Sheena Wilkinson on the passing of her Aunt, Mary recently.

Congratulations:

Michelle Ryan on the birth of baby girl Saorlaith

Mia Cronin on the birth of baby girl Molly

Sinead Gaffney on the birth of baby boy Iarlaith

Aoife Ryan on the birth of baby boy Oisin

Health & Safety

Thank you to Kieran Fennessy for all his help as staff representative. We have updated risk assessments and Health & Safety documents for the year ahead. Specific year group fire drills have been planned as well as unscheduled whole school drills during first term. All tutors have been reminded to revise the updated Fire Drill procedures with their class groups in preparation for same in the coming weeks.

Wellbeing Week

Thanks to Catherine Ahearne and the Wellbeing Committee for organising the activities for Wellbeing Week recently. A variety of events such as Drop and Colour, Photography, Poetry Competitions and Random Acts of Kindness were held during the week. Thanks to everyone who supported the two Charity Fundraisers, Jersey Day and Duct Tape the Deputy. The Committee are delighted to announce that a total of €1296.55 has been raised for Barnardos and The Irish Guide Dogs.

Halloween Baking:

A Halloween Baking Competition for First Year students took place on Wednesday 23rd of October. Well Done to everyone who participated.

Student Council

A new Student Voice for the 2024/2025 year has been elected and roles have been defined.

Parents' Council

The Parents' Council are organising a Christmas Raffle.

Teacher Induction

A teacher induction day took place in late August which is a comprehensive programme with all new teachers and trainee teachers who joined BCS for the coming Academic Year.

Staff Related Information

Extra Subject department planning has been provided in the reopening schedule. Thank you to Sarah Jane Mulcahy for updating planning hours for the 2024/2025 year. The staff handbook has been updated by Maria O'Brien with key teaching and learning information been highlighted in one section, other areas such as agreed practice and school calendar were also updated.

Subject Department Planning

All subject departments are assured that membership of their respective associations will continue to be paid for by the school as has always been the case. Planning time as last year

continues to be doubled the previous years. Planning booklets are available for all subject convenors.

Student Information

Leaving Certificate Results

Congratulations to our LC class of 2024 on receiving their results on Friday 23rd of August. We wish the students well in their future endeavours.

Junior Cycle Results

Congratulations to our students on the excellent Junior Cert results received on Wednesday 9th October.

1st Year Ardmore Trip

Our First Years, Cairde and Tutors visited Ardmore on Friday 20th of September for a Bonding day. They went on the Cliff Walk and had some fun games on the beach afterwards with their Cairde.



Book Rental Scheme

Thanks to Ann-Marie Lineen for coordinating the new Book Scheme for Junior Cycle and the Book Rental for Senior Cycle in advance of the new academic year.

Student PR Book

The student PR Book has been updated and changed following consultation with the Year Heads.

Subject Inspection Feedback

All specific Subject Department feedback along with programme and WSE are included in the T & L section of the staff handbook. This provides valuable feedback to help inform and facilitate future subject Dept. planning.

BCS Self Evaluation

Sarah Jane Mulcahy has worked with the Principal and Deputy Principal Sheena Wilkinson re our Annual Review Policy. We have outlined Policy priorities that are due for updating including the Substance use Policy. We have been provided with feedback received from

Staff, Students and Parents of BCS. All updated school policies are available on our school website and school app.

Community Open Day

Our Community Open Day was held on Saturday 28th of September from 12noon to 2pm. This was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our new school and to meet the community.

Golden Movies

As part of the 21 Year Celebrations BCS are holding Golden Movies for the Elderly once a month on a Wednesday. We have already watched My Fair Lady and High Society. Thanks to Ellen Ní Laoghog and the TY Students. Maria O Brien is organising a Christmas Party for our Movie Guests.

Congratulations

Junior Club Football:

Congratulations to both Affane/Cappoquin/Tourin and Ballyduff Upper on winning Western Junior C and Junior A Football Titles.

Junior LGFA Club:

Congratulations to Shamrocks LGFA on winning the Junior A County Final recently. Well Done to current and past BCS students involved.

Intermediate LGFA:

Congratulations to Na Deise on winning the Waterford Ladies Intermediate Football Title for 2024

Extra-Curricular Activities

Thanks to all staff & students who have put in so much time and effort in preparing for Hurling, Camogie, Gaelic Football, Soccer, Badminton, Athletics, Dance, Meditation and Choir during the first term.

Yellow Flag

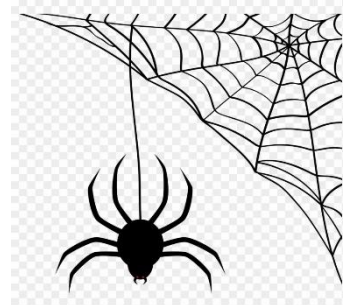
The Yellow Flag will be launching for the Academic Year 2024/2025. The Yellow Flag programme at BCS promotes the inclusion of all nationalities and cultures. The Committee meet regularly to chat informally and to organise events throughout the school to celebrate.

Senior Hurlers

Well Done to our Senior Hurlers on their great start to the Harty Campaign last Wednesday with a win over Tulla. The Scoreline was 2-16 to 0-20.

Senior Ladies Football

Well Done to our Senior Ladies on their win against St Declans, Kilmac in Round 1 of the Championship. The score was 5-11 to 2-8.



AIB Financial Safeguarding Talk

Our 5th Year and TY Business students attended a talk from AIB in relation to online safety, money scams and keeping your accounts secure.

Green Schools

Green Schools - National Walk to School Week 7th - 11th October

On Wednesday October 9th students, parents and staff participated in our **Walk on Wednesday**. Staff and Students were encouraged to walk to school.

Biology Trip:

5th Year Biology students went on the annual ecological trip to Fota Wildlife Park on Tuesday 15th October.

Careers Update:

LC students have had the opportunity to hear from MTU, SETU, Dornan group for construction related jobs and a Healthcare talk hosted by UL at in school presentations and attended the UL/Mary I/TUS Limerick open days on Thursday 17th Oct. They also had the opportunity to go to the Apprenticeship Roadshow before Midterm break.

Musical:

Rehearsals are continuing for the Schools upcoming performance of High School Musical.

Barcelona School Tour

Our Third Years and Staff will travel to Barcelona on Wednesday 6th of November.

Open Night

Thanks to all staff, students, cairde, choir, student council and parents' council who contributed to organising an extremely valuable and successful Open Night on Tuesday 1ST of October for prospective incoming students of 1st year for the 2025/2026 Academic Year.

Cairde

Our new Cairde have been trained and have engaged in a variety of activities to help our 1st year students in their transition to 2nd level.

Happy Halloween

Mise le Meas

Donncha Uas O'Rínn

Príomhóide

