



## ***Blackwater Community School***

### ***Christmas Newsletter 2024***

***Dear Parent/Guardian***

***A thuismitheoirí dhíl,***

***I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year. This newsletter affords me the opportunity to update you regarding some of the recent happenings at our school. We have been extremely busy in the run up to Christmas. Please remember to make contact whenever you feel necessary to follow up on your son's/daughter's progress at our school.***

***Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh uilig***

***Mise le meas,***

***Donnchadh Uas O'Rinn***

***Priomhoide***



#### **School Show**

Our Students performed in the recent School Production of High School Musical. An enormous amount of hard work and dedication went into preparing for the performances. Thanks to everyone who participated and helped over the course of the last few months. Thanks to our music teachers Ms Claire Lane and Ms Fiona Tobin for all their time and hard work.

#### **Subject & Themed Weeks**

Since September subject departments and focus groups have organised a variety of activities for students, which were extremely positive for the BCS community. These have included Wellbeing Week, Stand Up Awareness week, English Week, Modern Foreign Languages Week, Geography week and History week in recent months. Thank you to all students and staff involved, we look forward to the continuity of such weeks in the New Year.

### **School Development Planning**

All subject plans have had their Annual Review. The Principal presented an Annual Report for the Parents' Council, Board of Management, Trustees and Inspectorate. Recent Policies reviewed and adopted included- Homework, Dignity in the Workplace, Critical Incident Plans, Health and Safety, Child Protection Statement & Policy, Risk Assessments for all Subjects, School Self Evaluation Plan, School Improvement Plan, School Vision, Anti Bullying Statement & Policy, Smart Device Wellbeing Policy, Admission policy, LCA Policy, LCVP Policy, TY Policy, Literacy Policy and AEN & Whole School Inclusion Policy. We will be prioritising the Substance Use Policy next term.



### **Parent/Teacher Meetings**

6<sup>th</sup> Year and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year meetings have now taken place. Thank you to parents, students & staff for providing valuable feedback in recent weeks.

### **School Phone App**

All parents are urged to contact the school if they are experiencing any difficulties engaging fully with the phone app system and thank you to all for your continued support of its implementation.

### **Health & Safety**

Frequent H & S meetings take place between the Principal and the Safety rep. Mr Kieran Fennessy. All the fire extinguishers have been either repaired or replaced. We have Fire Drills planned for next term.

### **ARC Examinations**

The ARC1 examinations took place from Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> of November.

### **Green Schools**

The Green Schools Committee continue to meet regularly for discussions and to organise events. As part of Clean Air Week members of the Green Schools committee took part in an

Idling survey Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> of November. The Groups continue to go Litter Picking in the local area surrounding the School.

### **Open Night**

We had a very successful Open Night on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> of October for incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Years for the 2025/2026 Academic Year.

### **Awards Night**

Our Awards Night took place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of December. It was a fantastic evening to celebrate the achievements of our Leaving Certificate students of 2024 here at BCS.

**Whole School Mass:** Our School Mass took place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of December in St Carthage's Church, Lismore.

### **Memorial Service**

A Memorial Service was held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of December, to remember staff members Marie Morrissey, Susan Cronin, Michael McBride and Dave Murphy. On this special occasion we also opened our Construction Suite and had the switching on of our Christmas Lights.



### **Senior Citizens Christmas Party**

A party for the Senior Citizens in the locality was held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> of December. This was a lovely occasion to celebrate with the elderly from our community. Thanks to everyone who helped plan and make this a very special day.

## **Parents' Council**

Thanks to our Parents' Council for organising a Monster Christmas Raffle as a fundraiser for our school.

## **St Vincent De Paul Breakfast**

Well done to Social & Scientific students and their teachers who prepared a wonderful staff breakfast on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of December with all proceeds going to charity.

## **BCS Programmes**

### **Transition Year (TY)**

Our TY Students have had a recent work experience week which was extremely beneficial.

### **Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)**

Our LCA students continue to have their work experience every Friday.

## **Cairde**

Our Cairde have been very helpful with the current 1<sup>st</sup> Year students and support them with fun activities and routinely in the morning at their social and locker areas.

## **ACCS Business**

The ACCS Inservice for Principals and Deputy Principals took place on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of November. We have staff involved in the ACCS Middle Leadership Training Project.

## **School Re-Opening**

School re- opens on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of January 2025 after the Christmas Break

## **Pre Exams**

Our Pre examinations will commence on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> of February 2025.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Year Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal**

Thanks to all who contributed to the Hope Shoebox Appeal this year.

## **Parents please note:**

*Class time is of utmost importance and we would appreciate if at all possible that students would bring all their belongings with them each day to avoid unnecessary disruption to class.*

*If a parent needs to collect a student during the school day please ensure to complete all steps involved, which involve submitting an online explanation note and physically being present to collect your son/daughter from the school office, we also request that you know what class/teacher your child has at that particular time as intercom system will only be used for morning & afternoon announcements. Your full cooperation with this procedure is greatly appreciated.*

*Also, please note that if a student is late for Tutor meeting at 8.40am when roll is taken, they must ensure that they sign in at the main office as they will otherwise be marked absent.*

*Key dates for the remainder of the academic year are available on our school website.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help & support during the year.*

**Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh uilig!**

**Щасливого нового року**

**WESOLYCH SWIAT I SZCZESLIWEGO NOWEGO ROKU**

**Su sventom kaledom it naujais metais**

**Frahe Weihnachten und ein gutes neues Jahr.**

**Bonne Année**

***Donnchadh Uas Ó Rinn (Príomh Oide)***

***Denis Ring (Principal)***













