

# Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS, Johnstown.



## NEWSLETTER

May 2026

Dear Parents,

The last few months have been very busy! We have had several visitors to the school, also fun events and celebrations. We are happy to share important news updates and some of the highlights with you.

### Ministerial Visit

We welcomed Minister Moynihan, Minister for Special Education and Inclusion to the school on May 7<sup>th</sup>. It was a great opportunity to discuss our concerns about the Special Education sector. The Minister also toured the school and chatted to some of the children.



## Confirmation



Congratulations to the 6<sup>th</sup> Class girls who made their Confirmation on March 13<sup>th</sup>, officiated by Fr. John.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Class Trip



The 6<sup>th</sup> Class went on a trip to Kilmainham Gaol in May. They performed a lovely rendition of 'Grace' in the church where Joseph Plunkett and Grace Gifford were married in 1916.

# Author Visits

## Author Visits

The author, Alan Nolan visited 3<sup>rd</sup> Classes in March. We also hosted author and illustrator Kate Sheehy. These visits were enjoyed by all, while also being very inspirational for the students.



## New Sensory Room in the Mainstream School

We were delighted with the installation of a sensory room in the school last week. It will be an important resource for our pupils that need emotional regulation breaks. Thanks to you, our school community, who supported the fundraising that enabled us to create this special space in our school.



## RSE Talks

In line with the RSE Curriculum, students in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes had age-appropriate talks from Nola. She is a registered nurse with many years of experience in talking to young students about their physical and emotional development.

## Standardised Testing

Standardised tests, in reading, spelling and maths took place over the last few weeks. The results will be included on the end of year Report Cards which will be issued mid-June.



## First Holy Communion

Congratulations to the students in our 2<sup>nd</sup> Classes who received their First Holy Communion on May 16<sup>th</sup>. It was a memorable experience for both the children and their families. The ceremony was led by Fr. John, assisted by Fr Murney. Thanks to all the parents who sent in treats for the 'after party' and helped to run it on the day.



## Green Flag

We are delighted to have won our 10<sup>th</sup> green flag! Thank you to Ms. O'Neill and the Green Schools Team on leading the school to win the flag for Biodiversity & Food. Juliet O'Brien and Daisy Mooney went with Ms. O'Neill to accept our flag at a ceremony in DCU, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May. We will be having a flag raising Ceremony in the school next month. Well done to the whole school, for all their work in this area!



## Soccer Blitz!

Students from our Senior Classes enjoyed a soccer blitz in Kilbogget Park on May 21st. They represented the school well and had a fun day out. Thanks to Mr. Stewart and Carolann for supporting them.



## New Parents Evening

We welcomed the parents of our incoming Junior Infants for September 2026, to the school on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. Pupils from our student committees presented to them, while our 6<sup>th</sup> Class students conducted the tours. We are very proud of the confident, eloquent and vibrant student voice within our school community!





## New Special Class!

We have been sanctioned a new Inclusive Class and additional staff for children in our Mainstream School who have an autism diagnosis. We are currently liaising with the Department of Education to see what this will look like in our school and will keep you updated.



## Peer Mentoring

The 5<sup>th</sup> Class teachers, the student Peer Mentors and Ms. Cluskey, have worked hard in training for this and are now implementing this pilot initiative in the yard. Our Peer Mediators are trained to help the students resolve minor disputes in yard. Their role is to act as facilitators to help the students to communicate effectively, and reach agreements, without adult intervention. The girls involved made a very professional presentation to the Board of Management this week. They explained the initiative and gave them an update on how it was working.



## Fundraiser

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, together with the Boys' School, the school will participate in a fundraising relay marathon. The Girls' School are fundraising to significantly upgrade and improve our outdated stage equipment. We are looking forward to this fun event!



We sincerely thank you all for your continued support and partnership as valued members of our school community.

Kind Regards,

*Lisa Breen & the Johnstown GNS Team*

For additional news, photos and important information, check out our website [www.Johnstowngns.com](http://www.Johnstowngns.com) or our Instagram, <https://www.instagram.com/johnstowngirlsschool/?igsh=MWJ2MHQwOWJqc2lw>

