

Our Lady of Good Counsel GNS, Johnstown.



## NEWSLETTER

January 2026

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of the first month of the new year, we would like to share some recent highlights with you.

### Grandparents Day 2026

We were thrilled to welcome so many grandparents from our school community on January 21st. There was great excitement in the school! After a reception in the hall, the grandparents visited the classrooms where they chatted with the students. They also played games with the students in some of the classrooms. It was a special memory for all.





## Peer Mentoring Training

We are delighted to welcome a Peer Mentoring Training Programme to our school. Starting from this week, a number of 5<sup>th</sup> Class students, together with two staff members will receive training from a NEPS psychologist. This programme focuses on fostering positive relationships, wellbeing, and inclusion. They prepare mentors to support younger students through listening, friendship, and conflict resolution skills.

## 2025-2026 Focus on 'Learning through Play' & Well-being

As part of our School Self Evaluation and School Improvement Plan we have chosen teaching and learning through play, as an area of focus for this academic year and beyond. We have many new initiatives planned and in progress, as part of our whole-school approach to learning through play. As in previous years, Well-being continues to be an area of focus.





## Fundraising :



## Mini Marathon Fundraiser, Jimmy's Walk and Dublin Marathon Fundraisers

Thanks to the generous support of our school community, almost €21,000 was raised from these three events. A special thank you to Jimmy Forsyth and Daniel Mates for their efforts. Also, thanks to the school staff who fundraised through their participation in the Mini Marathon. The funds raised are for additional resources and facilities to support children in The Meadow and regulation for mainstream pupils.

We were delighted to be able to refurbish the sensory room and gym in The Meadow. We also improved the outdoor play area in The Meadow. In addition, this funding was used to create 'Contemplation Stations' around the mainstream school building. These are areas where pupils who need downtime can relax with an SNA. This term we are working on creating a sensory room in the mainstream school building.

## Sponsored Walk Fundraiser

We fundraised almost €8,000 from our annual Sponsored Walk. To date we have used these funds to landscape our school garden. In consultation with staff and pupils, we have plans to put the remainder towards sports and playground equipment and to develop our outdoor play areas.



## Service of Light

The 6<sup>th</sup> Classes celebrated the Service of Light on January 28<sup>th</sup> in Johnstown church. Thank you to their teachers, Ms. Condren and Mr. Gleeson who prepared them for the ceremony. Led by Fr. John, with the support of Fr. Murney. It was a lovely intimate celebration, for both the pupils and their parents.



## Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who made our Christmas Fair possible. Thanks also to all who supported our fair and made it such a successful event. This event is a very important fundraiser for us as it supports the running of the school.

## School Closure February 4th

A reminder that the school will be closed to pupils on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> to facilitate a mandatory staff training day (in the new curriculum).



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

Kind Regards,

*Lisa Breen & the Johnstown GHS 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>

