

St. Ciaran's College – CEIAG  
Newsletter

# Future Focus



# Welcome Message

- Welcome to the first edition of our new Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) newsletter! Each half term, we'll share highlights from across the school that showcase how our pupils are preparing for their future pathways — developing transversal skills, exploring opportunities, and connecting their learning to the world of work.

# Post-16 Pathways in Action

**This half term, our post 16 pupils have been:**

- Completing UCAS applications, including those applying for early entry courses such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry and Oxbridge — all of whom have now successfully submitted their applications.
- Researching careers and higher education options.
- Attending open days in Ulster University and St. Mary's University College
- Attending a presentation from Queen's University Belfast during assembly.
- Applying for the CEIAG trip to New York, where they were required to showcase key transversal skills such as resilience, communication, leadership and teamwork.

*Focus skill: Decision-making, independence, and self-presentation.*





# Exploring the Future of Work – Year 12



Focus skill: Data analysis, critical thinking, and self-awareness.



- Year 12 pupils have been diving into the NI Skills Barometer, analysing local employment trends and identifying future growth sectors.



# Knowing Yourself – Year 10

- Year 10 pupils have undertaken a skills audit, identifying their personal strengths and areas for improvement.

Transversal Skill	Description	Your Rating (1–5)	Strengths / Examples	Areas for Improvement / Targets
Communication	I can share my ideas clearly in speech and writing.			
Teamwork	I can work well with others and contribute to group goals.			
Problem-Solving	I can think through challenges and find solutions.			
Creativity and Innovation	I can come up with new ideas and try different approaches.			
Critical Thinking	I can analyse information and make good decisions.			
Organisation and Time Management	I can plan my work and meet deadlines.			
Adaptability and Resilience	I can stay positive and keep going when things get tough.			
Digital Skills	I can use digital tools safely and effectively.			
Leadership	I can take initiative and support others in achieving goals.			
Self-Management	I can set goals, stay motivated, and take responsibility for my learning.			

*Focus skill: Self-evaluation and goal setting.*

# Developing Executive Functioning Skills Through the Curriculum

- Across all subject areas, pupils at St. Ciaran's College are continually developing their executive functioning skills — the mental processes that enable them to plan, focus attention, remember instructions, and manage multiple tasks successfully. These skills form the foundation for effective learning and lifelong employability.
- In the classroom, pupils strengthen their working memory as they retain and apply key concepts in subjects such as Mathematics and Science. Through extended writing, problem-solving, and project work, they build cognitive flexibility, adapting their thinking to approach challenges in new and creative ways. Lessons that encourage organisation, goal-setting, and time management help pupils enhance their planning and prioritisation skills, while group work and independent study promote self-regulation and perseverance.
- By embedding these opportunities within everyday teaching, our staff ensure that pupils are not only achieving academically but also developing the core skills needed to thrive in further education, employment, and life beyond school.

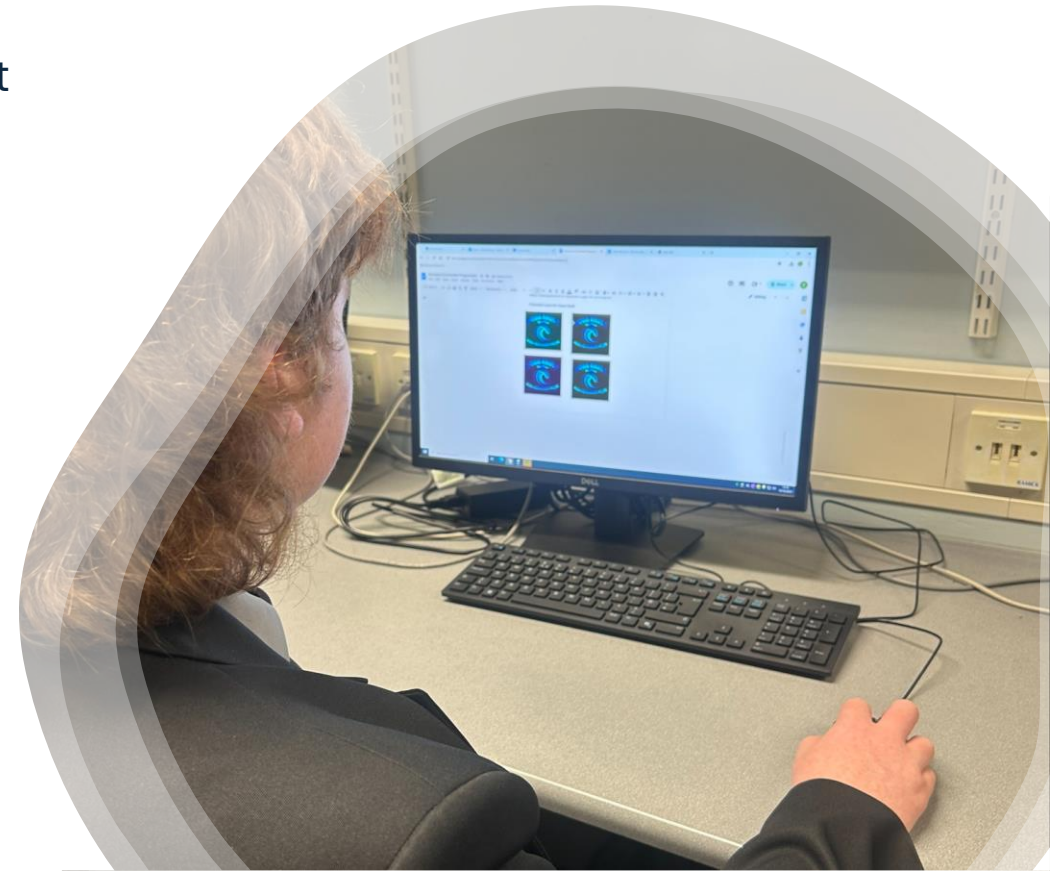
# **Every Subject Builds a Future: Linking Learning to Life Beyond School**

- At St. Ciaran's College, we believe that every subject plays a vital role in preparing our pupils for the world of work. Whether it's problem-solving in Mathematics, communication in English, creativity in Art, or teamwork in PE, each area of the curriculum develops the skills, knowledge, and confidence that young people need to make informed choices about their future pathways.
- Through their day-to-day lessons, pupils are not only working towards academic success — they are also building transversal skills such as leadership, critical thinking, adaptability, and resilience. These are the same qualities that employers and universities value most highly. Our teachers make clear connections between classroom learning and real-world applications, helping pupils see how what they learn today opens doors to tomorrow's opportunities.
- Across the curriculum this term, pupils have been engaging in a wide range of activities designed to bring careers learning to life — from exploring the science behind emerging industries to practising persuasive communication and digital literacy. Each subject contributes to helping our pupils understand their strengths, broaden their horizons, and recognise the many routes to success available after school.
- In this edition, we shine a spotlight on how departments across St. Ciaran's are helping pupils develop skills for life, for learning, and for work.



# Business Studies

- As part of the Year 13 enrichment programme, 26 students are actively participating in the Young Enterprise Company Programme, a recognised initiative that empowers young people to develop entrepreneurial skills. Currently, the students are working collaboratively in teams to generate innovative business ideas that they will refine, market, and sell over the coming months. This hands-on experience not only fosters creativity and teamwork but also cultivates a wide range of transferable skills such as communication, problem-solving, financial literacy, and project management. These workplace-relevant skills are essential for future employment and further education, giving students a valuable head start in understanding the dynamics of running a business and working effectively within a team.
- The photos attached show two of the groups creating and confirming their business logos.





# Geography

- Year 9 Geography pupils are currently carrying out a decision making exercise relating to the location of an Applegreen in the Ballygawley area. They are looking at the advantages and disadvantages of locating a major service station in the Ballygawley area. They also take on the role of a member of the Planning Service and decide if the planning application should be passed or rejected.



# ICT

- Pupils in Year 9 recently took part in an engaging workshop delivered by Sentinus, aimed at developing key digital competencies. The session introduced pupils to practical applications of technology through hands-on activities, encouraging problem-solving, creativity, and teamwork. This aligns with our CEIAG programme by helping pupils explore how digital skills are essential across a wide range of career pathways, particularly in STEM industries. The workshop provided a valuable opportunity for pupils to connect classroom learning with real-world applications, inspiring them to think about their future roles in a digital economy gaining more experience with new digital software.





# English

## Stage Meets Study: Year 11 Explore English Literature Through Live Performance

- On Monday 20th October, our Year 11 English Literature students were treated to a live performance by the talented Bright Umbrella Theatre Company. The group brought the set text to life with an engaging and dynamic production, offering students a fresh perspective on the play.
- Following the performance, students had the opportunity to take part in a Q&A session with the actors and creative team. The discussion covered a range of topics, including careers in acting, directing, and the wider theatre industry. Students asked thoughtful questions and gained valuable insights into the creative process and the realities of working in the performing arts.



# Home Economics

## Local Coffee Shop owner inspires students

Students had a special visit from Helen, owner of Nomad, a popular local coffee stop known for its on site baked croissants and tray bakes. As part of our Career Focus programme, Helen joined students in the Home Economics department to share skills, stories and passion for baking and coffee.

Students learned about the daily life of a coffee shop owner and baker, from very early morning starts and recipe development to managing a business, social media and serving customers. They also had a chance to get hands-on experience, baking alongside a professional discovering how creativity, teamwork and attention to detail are key ingredients to baking and business success.

The session not only gave students a taste for what it is like to work in the food industry but also highlighted the importance of following your passion and turning it into a career.

A big thankyou to Helen for inspiring our young chefs and making the day such a memorable one!





# Child Care

## Insight into Midwifery Careers for Year 12 Childcare Students

- We were delighted to welcome local community midwife **Heather Jarvis**, who generously gave her time and expertise to speak with our **Year 12 GCSE Childcare students**. Heather provided an engaging and informative session on the realities of a career in midwifery, sharing her professional experiences and offering valuable guidance to support students' coursework and future career planning. The visit concluded with an interactive **Q&A session**, giving pupils the opportunity to ask thoughtful questions and gain a deeper understanding of pathways into healthcare careers.



# Technology and Design

## **Year 10 Transversal Skills Development in Technology and Design**

- As part of our ongoing commitment to fostering transversal skills within the Technology and Design curriculum, Year 10 pupils recently participated in a collaborative challenge focused on teamwork and communication. The activity required pupils to construct the tallest possible tower using a limited selection of materials, encouraging strategic thinking, resource management, and effective interpersonal collaboration. Pupils who demonstrated a strong prior understanding of structural principles were notably more successful, highlighting the value of foundational knowledge in practical applications.

This initiative not only reinforced key engineering concepts but also provided an engaging platform for pupils to develop essential soft skills that are highly valued in both academic and professional contexts.

## **Upcoming 'Women in Engineering' Event – November**

- Looking ahead, our Year 10 female pupils will have the opportunity to participate in the upcoming *Women in Engineering* event this November.

# Construction

- Our Year 11 Construction pupils have been busy putting their practical skills — and entrepreneurial minds — to the test this term! As part of an exciting enterprise project, which runs during lunchtime. Students have been designing and manufacturing **handcrafted wooden reindeer planters** to sell at the upcoming **School Christmas Market**.
- Working together as a professional team, pupils have taken responsibility for **costing and ordering materials, manufacturing their products**, and planning how to **market and sell** their creations for a profit. Through this project, they've not only developed their construction and design abilities but also strengthened key **transversal skills** such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, creativity, and financial literacy — all vital for success in any future career.
- This hands-on project has given our students a taste of what it means to be **entrepreneurial**, turning an idea into a real product and learning the value of planning, collaboration, and innovation along the way. Be sure to visit their stall at the Christmas Market — your purchase will support our young entrepreneurs and their growing skills!





# Maths / Engineering

- Our Year 13 Maths and Engineering students were invited to Queens University Belfast as part of 'Civilisation Belfast' to showcase the impact of Civil Engineering projects across the city of Belfast. Students had the opportunity to listen to key stakeholders in relation to their construction of Grand Central Station, Lagan Weir and Victoria Square. Students heard about the key engineering principles involved which allowed them to apply the theory from the classroom to a real-life context. Pupils were given an insight into what a career in Civil Engineering would involve. This was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils who are now considering this career path.





# French



- Last week, our students had the exciting opportunity to visit Paris as part of their French studies. During the trip, they practiced their language skills in real-life situations—ordering food, greeting people, shopping, and exploring famous landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, Montmartre, Notre Dame and le Sacré Coeur. The experience not only boosted their confidence in speaking French, and made them more culturally aware but also helped develop important transversal skills such as communication, teamwork, budgeting, and problem-solving. It was a fantastic blend of learning and adventure that brought the classroom to life! A fantastic time was had by all, and many memories made!
- Year 8 French poem competition. Last month Year 8 pupils took part in a French poetry recitation competition. All pupils demonstrated impressive pronunciation, expression and confidence. By taking part, students strengthened key CEAIG skills such as communication, presentation, and cultural awareness.

## Geologist

A geologist is a scientist who studies the Earth's physical structure, composition, and history, using fieldwork, laboratory analysis, and modelling to understand processes like earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Their work is crucial for resource exploration, assessing geological hazards, and guiding construction projects.



## Science

- **Year 8 students are researching careers that use science every day. They are developing their team work skills and finding out about the day to day role of the job and qualifications and skills required.**
- **We have a group of students who have entered the BT Young Scientist competition and have qualified for the exhibition in RDS in January. They are Broghan McKenna and Padraic O'Neill Year 12MK.**





# Work-Related Learning: Building Pathways to the Future

- Work-related learning plays a vital role in helping our pupils make informed decisions about their future careers. This October, our **Year 13 Health and Social Care students** took part in a week-long **work experience programme**, gaining valuable first-hand insight into the professional environments connected to their studies. Experiences like these help pupils develop essential skills, explore career interests, and build confidence as they begin to plan their next steps beyond school.
- All **Post-16 pupils** are encouraged to take part in ongoing **world of work experiences**, which have included a wide range of opportunities this year—both **in person and virtually**—across sectors such as **Medicine, Allied Health Professions, Nursing and Midwifery, Engineering, Education, Agriculture, and Youth Work**.
- These experiences not only deepen understanding of potential career paths but also help pupils connect classroom learning with real-world applications. To make the most of all upcoming opportunities, pupils should ensure they are a member of **Mr Lennon's Work Experience Google Classroom**, where regular updates and placements are shared.



# Vocational Pathway Students Gaining Real- World Experience

- Our **Vocational Pathway students** continue to benefit from our highly successful **Work-Related Learning Programme**, which provides meaningful, hands-on experience in the world of work. As part of the programme, pupils spend **one day each week with an employer**, developing practical skills and gaining valuable insight into their chosen industries.
- Students are currently placed across a wide range of sectors—including **construction, engineering, education, early years, youth work, and property**—allowing them to experience the realities of different career paths while building essential employability skills





# Pupil Spotlight

- Every year some pupils decide to follow our highly successful vocational pathway at KS4. On this pathway pupils attend one day per week work related learning when they apply classroom learning to the world of work.
- In this edition we celebrate the success of year 11 construction student Eoin McCarney who has excelled since joining Farrell Joinery at the start of September. His manager in Farrell's had this to say:

*“Eoin has settled in to his work experience extremely well and has shown his work ethic and joinery skills from day one. Eoin has been a valuable addition to the team and he has been working on the construction of the staircases during his work experience. A pleasure to have here at Farrell joinery”.*

Well done Eoin!



# Opportunities and Event

- The second half of term will see year 14 pupils finish their UCAS application (Deadline 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025)
- Pupils in KS4&5 will have the opportunity to attend talks for HE/FE colleges including CAFRE, SWC, UU and SMUCB.
- We will welcome a range of employers from Construction, Engineering, IT, Finance and more to talk to pupils about apprenticeships and HLA opportunities.
- Departments will continue to promote CEIAG through classroom learning, industrial visits and guest speakers.

# How can you help!

- To find out how you can help our students prepare for life and work please contact our head of CEAIG
- Mr B. McManus

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