



# Muckross News

MAY 2026

## Muckross Park College 2025/26 Sports Round-Up:

The 2025/26 school year has been another fantastic one for sport in Muckross Park, with students thriving across a wide variety of competitions and representing the school with pride, determination and teamwork.

### Basketball:

Our U19, U16, 2nd Year and 1st Year basketball teams all enjoyed strong seasons this year. The U19 team were crowned league winners following an excellent campaign, while the 1st Year team impressed by reaching the quarter-finals in their debut season.

### Soccer:

This year also marked an exciting milestone for soccer in Muckross Park, with the 1st Year Soccer Team becoming the school's first soccer team in a number of years. They enjoyed a hugely successful season, winning their Regional Final and progressing all the way to the Leinster Semi-Final.

### Tennis, Golf & Swimming:

Tennis continued to grow in popularity, with an impressive 15 teams entered into the Leinster League this year. Students also represented the school strongly in golf and swimming competitions throughout the year.

### GAA:

Over 170 students from 1st to 4th Year participated in the Scoop Cup this year. Every year group reached a final, with the 1st Year 1s winning the Cup Final. The 2nd Year 1s and 2s enjoyed great success by winning both the Shield Final and Plate Final, while the 3rd Year 1s were crowned Shield champions.

### Athletics:

Athletics also had a highly successful year, with 58 athletes representing Muckross Park at the East Leinster Athletics competition.

Special congratulations to all students who achieved medal success:

Minor A & B Relay Teams

Christina Ryan – Gold Medal, Minor 800m

Rozanna Henson – Gold Medal, Junior Hammer

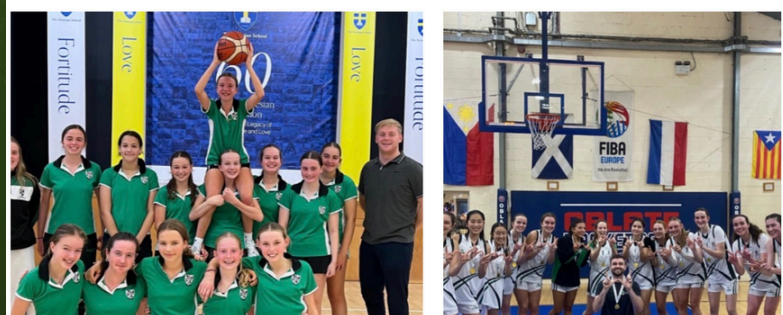
Ailbhe Murphy – Silver Medal, Inter 100m

Ada Skrobol – Bronze Medal, Inter 100m and Silver Medal, High Jump

Iseult Harte – Bronze Medal, Inter Steeplechase

Lauren Browne – Silver Medal, Inter Shot Put and Bronze Medal, Javelin

Inter Relay Team – Bronze Medal



## Hockey:

Hockey had another outstanding season across all age groups and abilities:

24 teams competed throughout the year

13 teams reached the playoffs

4 teams reached finals – and all 4 won

Special congratulations to:

Senior 1s – Claudia Tierney Winners

TY B Team – League Winners

Junior A Team – League Winners

Junior C Team – League Winners

## Sporting Events & Dominican Cup Success:

The sporting calendar this year was filled with memorable occasions that brought students, staff, parents and past pupils together through sport and school spirit.

Among the highlights was the hugely successful Past Pupil Hockey Match, where the Senior 1s emerged victorious after a competitive and enjoyable occasion celebrating the strong traditions of hockey in Muckross Park.

The annual Halloween and Christmas Hockey and Basketball Blitzes once again proved to be major highlights of the sporting year, creating a fantastic atmosphere of participation, fun and school spirit across all year groups.

The Charity Soccer Match, “Wigs v Bald,” was another standout event of the year, with 5th and 6th Year students showing tremendous enthusiasm both on and off the pitch while supporting an important cause.

A particular highlight of the year was the school’s incredible success in the Dominican Cup. Muckross Park proudly hosted the competition and achieved an outstanding clean sweep across all three sports – Hockey, Basketball and Soccer.

A huge thank you to all the TY students who put so much work into the Dominican Cup and the Sports Awards celebration.



## Sports Awards:

The annual Sports Awards celebration was a wonderful opportunity to recognise the dedication, commitment and achievements of students across all sporting disciplines in Muckross Park.

This year, nearly 70 awards were presented across a wide range of sports, highlighting the incredible participation and success enjoyed throughout the school year.

A new award was also introduced to recognise 6th Year students who have shown exceptional dedication and commitment to Muckross sport over their six years of involvement and representation.

### Sports Stars 2025/26

1st Year – Tessa Rickard

2nd Year – Siofra MacMahon

3rd Year – Emily Delle Chaia

4th Year – Leah Kitteringham

5th Year – Isabella Willis

6th Year – Caoimhe Dalton

A huge congratulations also goes to Grace McKenna, who received the prestigious honour of being named Muckross Sports Girl of the Year 2026.

From league titles and cup victories to blitzes, tournaments and school events, 2025/26 has been a truly exceptional year for sport in Muckross Park. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by students across every discipline continues to strengthen the sporting culture within the school community.

A massive thank you to Sports Captains Anna Moran and Nancy Browne for their incredible work, leadership and support for Muckross sport throughout the year.

Congratulations to all students, coaches, teachers, parents and supporters who contributed to such a successful and memorable sporting year for Muckross Park College.

## Lourdes Team Raises €930 at Successful Coffee Morning :

The Lourdes Team had a coffee morning in Donnybrook Parish Centre to help fund a sick pilgrim's trip to Lourdes in September. They raised an amazing 930euro.

Thanks to all parents and students who supported on the day.



## A Special Day at Knock Shrine for TY Students:



### Muckross Park Sports Day 2026:

Sports Day was a huge success this year, with students from every year group taking part in a wide range of activities, including athletics, soccer, frisbee and even dance. With the sun shining throughout the day and spirits high from start to finish, the school grounds were filled with energy, enthusiasm and plenty of school spirit.

It was fantastic to see such incredible participation across all year groups, with students fully embracing the day, supporting one another and enjoying every event. The positive atmosphere and sense of community made the day truly memorable for everyone involved.

The celebrations continued later in the day as students' sporting achievements and contributions throughout the year were recognised at the Sports Awards ceremony. Congratulations to all students who received medals and awards for their dedication, commitment and success.

A huge thank you goes to our wonderful PE Department, especially Riona and Ms Galloway, for organising such a fantastic day, and to our outstanding Sports Captains, Anna and Nancy, for their hard work, enthusiasm and leadership throughout the year.



## Ember Team Supporting Faith and Wellbeing in Muckross Park:

The Ember Team plays an important role in promoting faith, spirituality and positive wellbeing throughout the school community. This year's team was made up of 5th Year students Theresa Keegan, Anna Albert, Caroline Bryson, Molly MacNicholas, Eloise O'Connor, Roisin Smyth, Anna Keelan and Rosa Knaggs.

Throughout the year, the team worked closely with Ms Curley and our chaplain, Anita, helping to organise and lead a variety of meaningful events and initiatives within the school.

Among their many contributions were providing readings at the November Remembrance Mass and organising the Christmas Shoebox Appeal, which was an outstanding success, with over 100 shoeboxes donated. During Lent, the team created a thoughtful display reflecting Jesus' journey in the desert, and they also led a special St. Brigid's prayer service for 1st Year students to welcome the beginning of spring.

The Ember Team also helped welcome a special guest speaker, Sr Liz Smyth, who spoke to students about the Dominican ethos and its importance within the Muckross Park community.

The team should be extremely proud of all they achieved this year. Their dedication, leadership and commitment helped to strengthen and support the faith of the school in a meaningful and positive way.



### OUR JOURNEY TO THE FRENCH DEBATING FINAL 2025/2026 🇫🇷

This year, five of us from 5th year took part in French debating with the Alliance Française. Megan Sheehy, Caroline Bryson, Anna Albert and our amazing sub and researcher Anna Ryan.

Our first French motion in November was "Why should we choose you to participate in the debates?" We had to convince the team in The Alliance Française that we were worthy of a place in the quarter-finals, and we did!

In January, our next debate was through Zoom with another school in Laois.

The motion was: "Artificial intelligence is a wolf in sheep's clothing." We won this round! We were now through to the semi final.

We quickly started preparing for the semi-final in March back in The Alliance Française. Our motion for the semi final was "Mobile phones should be banned in schools," against Alex.

We were absolutely thrilled when we found out we won and were through to the semi final.

Straight after they announced us as finalists we got the topic for the final. It was a long day, we had 5 hours to prepare and learn our speeches!

The motion for the All Ireland French debating competition was "C'était mieux avant" meaning, "Things were better before" (in the past) against St. Conleths. The motion was incredibly well debated, and we did our best against a formidable team. We finished in second place but we were extremely proud.

French debating was a really fun experience. We learned a lot about speaking in French and public speaking skills.

We would really recommend the debates to anyone doing French at school!

## End-of-Year Awards & Sixth Year Graduation Celebration:

Students and staff recently came together for a special End-of-Year Awards and Sixth Year Graduation Celebration. The ceremony was a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements, talents and contributions of students across all year groups throughout the school year.

Awards were presented to students in recognition of their hard work, commitment and success in many different areas of school life, while our Sixth Year students were also celebrated as they marked the end of their journey in Muckross Park.

The event was filled with pride, reflection and celebration, creating a memorable occasion for students and teachers alike. Congratulations to all students who received awards, and best wishes to our graduating Sixth Years as they begin an exciting new chapter.



### **A Wonderful Final German Class:**

Today marked our final German class together, and we celebrated in style with a fantastic German-themed party. Ms Prior kindly made hot chocolate for the class, while students brought in a selection of German sweets and treats to enjoy together.

Over the past three years, Ms Prior has been an incredible teacher who has supported, encouraged and inspired us throughout our Junior Cycle journey. To thank her for everything she has done, we presented her with a special piece of the Berlin Wall and a signed German jersey as a token of our appreciation.

Thanks to Ms Prior, we feel confident and well prepared to take on the Junior Cycle exams and are excited for the year ahead in TY. Vielen Dank, Ms Prior!



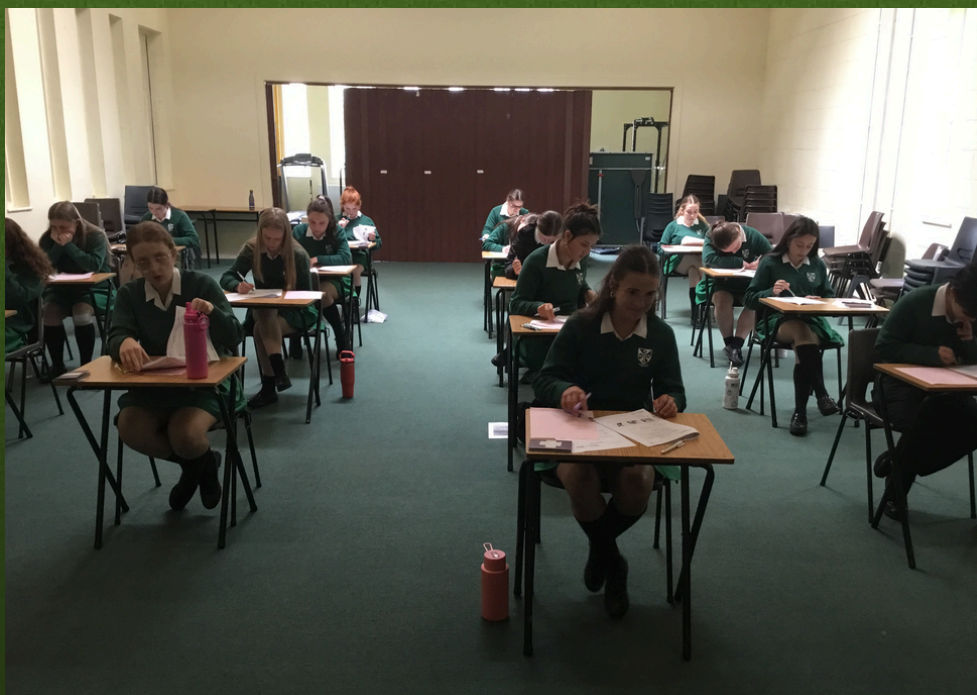
### **TY Students Complete French DELF Examination:**

The second group of Transition Year students successfully completed their French DELF examinations on May 7th following months of hard work and preparation.

It was a long and demanding day for the students, beginning with a one hour and forty minute written examination, followed by an oral examination conducted by two native French speakers.

Ms O'Hara and Ms Walsh are extremely proud of the dedication, commitment and effort shown by all of the students throughout the year. Since September, the girls have worked diligently to strengthen all areas of their French language skills, with a particular focus on the new oral components, including a monologue and role play.

Their enthusiasm and perseverance will undoubtedly stand to them as they begin their Senior Cycle studies. Congratulations to all involved, and we wish them every success in the future – Bonne chance à toutes!



## Second Year Students Create Original Historical Musical:

Second Year students Lauren Long and Amelia Scannell have been working independently outside of class on an exciting creative drama project – an original musical celebrating the life and legacy of Michael Collins.

Currently titled Everybody Loves Michael, the musical will explore key events in Irish history from the 1916 Easter Rising through to Michael Collins' death during the Civil War in 1922, highlighting his role in Ireland's struggle for independence. Drawing inspiration from popular historical musicals such as Hamilton and SIX, Lauren and Amelia have combined history, music, comedy and drama to create a unique and entertaining production. Audiences can expect plenty of surprises along the way, including a dance break in jail, a boyband mash-up and lots of dramatic moments.

This imaginative and ambitious project is a fantastic example of the creativity, initiative and talent of our students. We look forward to seeing how the musical develops and wish Lauren and Amelia the very best with their work.

## Flower Arranging Blooms During Creative Week:

Flower arranging once again proved to be a hugely popular event during the school's Creative Week, and there is no doubt that our students have a wonderful talent for creativity and design. A huge thank you must go to our TY students who helped with the organisation and set-up of the event, especially Sally Quirke and Mae Twomey, who did a fantastic job ensuring everything ran so smoothly throughout the day.

Special thanks also to last year's winners, Robyn Moran and Meriel McNeill, who kindly assisted with the adjudication of this year's competition.

After much deliberation, the judges awarded:

- 1st Prize: Isabel Ryan
- 2nd Prize: Juno Gallagher

The event created a lovely atmosphere during lunchtime, with the beautiful flowers adding colour, creativity and a wonderful aroma to the school day.

Well done to everyone who took part!



## The Great Muckross Debate Off:

As part of Creative Schools Week, students took part in The Great Muckross Debate Off.

This was an engaging event that gave students the opportunity to showcase their debating skills, creativity, and confidence. Students from all year groups participated in a series of debates on a wide variety of topics, discussing current issues, popular opinions, and light-hearted themes.

Throughout the event, students demonstrated excellent communication skills as they presented arguments, challenged opposing viewpoints, and responded thoughtfully to one another's ideas.

The creativity, humour, and passion shown throughout the debates made The Great Muckross Debate Off one of the highlights of Creative Schools Week.



### **Celebrating Junk Kouture Success:**

We are also delighted to celebrate the success of our current Second Year students, whose fantastic design entry in last year's Junk Kouture competition achieved an incredible win during Creative Schools Week.

The students impressed the judges with their creativity, originality and teamwork, producing a truly unique design that stood out amongst the competition. Their hard work, innovation and dedication were clearly reflected in the outstanding final piece.

Congratulations to Lauren, Amelia, Qian Hui and Adele on this remarkable achievement, and well done to everyone involved in this wonderful success.



## Creative Schools Week 2026: A Celebration of Creativity and Talent:

Creative Schools Week 2026 was a tremendous success, bringing creativity, colour and energy to every corner of Muckross Park. Coordinated by Ms Cunningham, the week celebrated the incredible talents, imagination and enthusiasm of students across all year groups through a wide range of events, performances and workshops.

Throughout the week, students had the opportunity to take part in music, art, debating, dance, fashion and creative workshops, helping to create a vibrant and exciting atmosphere throughout the school. Highlights included The Great Muckross Debate-Off, Junk Kouture competitions, TY short film awards, lip sync battles, lunchtime concerts, flower arranging, dance sessions, a colour run and a variety of student-led creative workshops for First Years.

The week also highlighted the leadership and initiative of students, with many TY and senior students helping to organise and run activities throughout the school. From performances and competitions to workshops and creative displays, students embraced every opportunity to get involved and support one another.

A huge thank you goes to Ms Cunningham for coordinating such a successful and enjoyable week, as well as to all teachers and students who contributed their time, talent and enthusiasm to making Creative Schools Week 2026 such a memorable occasion for the entire school community.



## TY Students Showcase Their Filmmaking Talents:

As part of Creative Schools Week, Transition Year students took part in an exciting short film workshop, where they were challenged to write, direct, produce and act in their very own short films.

Working collaboratively in groups, students demonstrated incredible creativity, teamwork and imagination as they developed their ideas from script to screen. The finished films were showcased during a special screening in the Assembly Hall, where students had the opportunity to celebrate all of their hard work and talent.

To recognise the fantastic effort and creativity involved, students were presented with fun “Oscar-style” awards for different aspects of filmmaking and performance.

Well done to all students who took part in this wonderful project and showcased such enthusiasm, creativity and confidence throughout the process.



## Sixth Year Graduation Mass 2026:

On the 14th of May, the Muckross Park community gathered together to celebrate the Sixth Year Graduation Mass – a beautiful and memorable occasion marking the end of an important chapter for our graduating students.

The ceremony was attended by students, parents and teachers alike, creating a warm and reflective atmosphere as everyone came together to celebrate the achievements, friendships and memories made over the past six years. The Mass was a wonderful experience for all in attendance and provided a meaningful opportunity to wish our Sixth Years well as they prepare for the next stage of their journey.

Music throughout the ceremony was beautifully provided by Ms Cunningham and the Sixth Year Choir, whose performances added greatly to the occasion. A particularly moving moment was the special performance by the teachers of “May the Road Rise to Meet You,” which was warmly received by students and families alike.

Following the Mass, refreshments were served back at the school, allowing students, parents and staff to continue the celebrations together.

A sincere thank you must also go to the RE Department for all of their hard work in coordinating and organising such a special and meaningful celebration for our Sixth Year students.

It was a truly special occasion and a wonderful send-off for our Sixth Year girls. We wish them every happiness and success in the future.



Wishing all students and families a wonderful summer holiday.

Thank you for all the effort and commitment shown this year.

Enjoy the break and take time to relax and recharge.