



KNOCKBEG NEWSLETTER

SPRING ISSUE - TUESDAY 31ST MARCH 2026



'Spring is the time of plans and projects.' — Leo Tolstoy

Tolstoy was not thinking about the Leaving Certificate or the new pitches when he wrote the above line, but for Knockbeg this statement certainly rings true. Spring in Knockbeg sees us straddle a number of different ages.

The hard work of the winter in the classroom, at study and on the training pitch begins to appear as buds and blossoms. Our Leaving Certificate students are currently well into their orals, coursework and project work. The 'Mocks' are over and the long drive to June has picked up pace. Their time with us as students is also coming to an end. The sun is out again in the morning and the daffodils are all up along the avenue. These signs of Spring remind us that summer is fast approaching. Soon for these guys there will be no more morning drive down the avenue. I hope they enjoy the remaining time, while staying focused on all ahead. Alongside this process, we are welcoming in our 2026 1st years. 90 plus young men attended for their entrance assessment

with a second day planned for those who missed. There are further events in the coming weeks as part of their induction.

The last few months here in Knockbeg has seen some extraordinary extra-curricular success. Our 1st and Second year Basketball squads, 'A' and 'Development' have all gone deep in their season, with All Ireland Playoffs and two Plate finals ahead. Our Minor Cross Country squad finished 8th in the All Ireland in Antrim. Our Senior Hurlers won their South Leinster competition. The TY Film group, and TY Enterprise teams returned with trophies. Debating has restarted here in Knockbeg. Three of our four football squads have reached Leinster 'A' finals. Our 1st years were narrowly edged, in extra-time by Mullingar CBS. Our Junior squad await a refixing of their game against St Pat's of Navan. Our Second year squad won the Leinster final with a big win over Colaiste Eoin. The seeds for these successes were planted in the Autumn and Winter, and tended to by enthusiastic coaches. We are very proud of the efforts of all of our students who have represented the school. We are also very thankful for the efforts our staff have made to nurture this success.

Finally, we are also hoping to start to see the sowing of seed on our new pitches. As the weather improves we look forward to welcoming back the development contractors, Penturf, who will sow grass before the end of this school year. These seeds will hopefully bear success by Spring/Summer 2027. Keep an eye out on our socials and in your postbox, for details on how you can get involved in this exciting project.

2ND YEAR SKI TRIP



Our 2nd Year students recently travelled to Sappada in the Italian Alps for this year's ski trip. For many, it was their first time on the slopes, and it was great to see the progress made over the course of the trip. From a few shaky starts to confidently making their way down the runs, the improvement was clear each day.

Aside from the skiing, the trip was a really enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Students had the chance to spend time together, try something new and represent the school very well throughout. A big thank you to the staff who organised and accompanied the trip. It's one that will definitely be remembered.

BARCELONA 2026

Our TY students enjoyed a fantastic trip to Barcelona in February, making the most of a few action-packed days in the city. The trip got off to a great start with a cable car ride offering incredible views, followed by visits to the aquarium and a walk along the famous Las Ramblas. As the days went on, students took part in a variety of activities, including kayaking, while also enjoying the sunshine and soaking up the atmosphere of the city.

It was a really memorable trip, full of interesting experiences, culture and plenty of laughs along the way. Most importantly, students represented the school very well throughout. A big thank you to all the staff involved in organising and accompanying the group.



TY TRIP

TRACTOR RUN 2026

The school held its annual tractor run on Thursday, 5th March in aid of Embrace FARM, an organisation that supports families affected by farming accidents.

Organised by our students, the event saw a fantastic turnout with a wide range of tractors and strong support from the Knockbeg community. The students raised funds for this very worthwhile cause, adding to the success of the day. A special thank you to Mr. Osborne for his efforts in supporting the students with the event.



On the 4th of March our senior students took part in a Careers Seminar where they had the chance to hear from a number of guest speakers across different fields. It was a really worthwhile event, giving students a better idea of the options available to them after school and what different career paths can look like in reality. The opportunity to ask questions and hear honest advice was particularly valuable. We are grateful to everyone who came in to speak to the students.



CAREERS SEMINAR

BINGO NIGHT

The Parents' Association organised a Bingo Night on the evening of 19th March in the school sports hall, which proved to be a very enjoyable and successful evening. There was an impressive turnout on the night, with plenty of games played, lots of winners and a really positive atmosphere throughout.

The event provided an ideal opportunity for students, parents and the wider school community to come together in a relaxed setting and enjoy the occasion. A sincere thank you to the Parents' Association for organising the bingo night and to everyone who supported it's safe to say it won't be the last!



On 27th February, our school community marked Safer Internet Day 2026 with an important and engaging programme focused on online safety. A team of students played a key role in organising the event, demonstrating excellent preparation, teamwork and leadership skills, all adding to the day's success.

We would like to extend a very special thank you to Garda Seán O'Mahoney for generously giving his time to deliver such an informative and engaging presentation to our students.



INTERNET SAFETY DAY 2026



TY RUBBISH FILM GROUP



A huge well done to our TY students who were crowned regional winners at the Rubbish Film Festival 2026 with their film *Whispers of the Forest*. This is an impressive achievement and highlights the creativity and effort of the group.



Congratulations to our 2nd Year footballers who were crowned Leinster 'A' Champions following a dominant win over Coláiste Eoin Stillorgan. Knockbeg ran out convincing winners on a scoreline of 5-14 to 1-3, capping off a superb campaign.



**2ND YEAR LEINSTER
CHAMPIONS**

Following their South Leinster success, our Junior footballers have now qualified for the Leinster 'A' Final, where they will face St Patrick's Classical School, Navan in the coming weeks. This is a fantastic achievement for the group and a reward for their hard work and commitment throughout the campaign. We wish the team the very best of luck in the final.



JUNIOR FOOTBALL

There was heartbreak for our 1st Year footballers in the Leinster 'A' Final as Knockbeg were narrowly defeated by Coláiste Mhuire Mullingar after extra time on a scoreline of 1-10 to 1-7. The Brother Hubert decider, played in Ratheniska, was a hard-fought contest throughout.



HEARTBREAK FOR OUR FIRST YEARS

Congratulations to our Minor Cross Country team on finishing 8th in the All-Ireland finals held recently in Antrim. This was a rewarding experience for the team, who competed with determination and represented the school with pride.

Well done to Michael Tomlinson, Oisín Coakley, Matthew Folden, Rhys Morrissey, Jack Fingleton, John Conway, Ethan Finnegan and James O’Gorman on their excellent performance.



MINOR CROSS COUNTRY

1ST & 2ND YEAR BASKETBALL

It has been a very positive period for basketball in Knockbeg College, with strong performances across a number of teams. Our 2nd Year A basketballers recorded a crucial win over Presentation De La Salle on 19th March to secure a place in the All-Ireland playoffs. This is a notable achievement for this hardworking and dedicated group. The playoffs set to take place after Easter. Our 1st Year A team also enjoyed success, defeating Coláiste Choilm Tullamore on a scoreline of 31-27 after a hard-fought overtime battle on 23rd March to progress to the Plate Final. Meanwhile, our 1st and 2nd Year development squads competed in the Midlands B Plate semi-finals against Castledermot on 26th March. The 1st Years secured a win and the 2nd Years narrowly missed out in what were two highly competitive and entertaining games.



SOUTH LEINSTER SHC 'D' GLORY FOR OUR SENIOR HURLERS

Knockbeg College 3-16 Coláiste Eoin Hacketstown 2-4

Congratulations to our Senior Hurlers who were crowned South Leinster SHC 'D' champions after a dominant performance against Coláiste Eoin Hacketstown. Knockbeg controlled the game throughout and ran out deserving winners on the day. This was a brilliant achievement for the team and a great moment for all involved.



Our TY students travelled to Dublin on 2nd March, starting with a visit to Croke Park. A guided tour of the stadium and museum gave students a chance to explore the history of the GAA and some of its most famous moments.

The group then travelled to Kilmainham Gaol, where they gained a deeper insight into Irish history through an engaging and informative tour. It was a really enjoyable and educational trip.



TY TRIPS

JUNIOR CYCLE DEBATE TEAM



Well done to our Junior Debating team who took part in the St Kieran's Inter Schools Debate Competition on 26th February. Conor Wall, Oisín Fagan, William Cassidy and Scott McDonagh delivered strong and well-structured arguments opposing the motion "AI is destroying human creativity." The team represented the school very well throughout.

JUNIOR CYCLE MUSIC TRIP



Junior Cycle Music students enjoyed a trip to the National Concert Hall in Dublin on the 3rd of March to hear performances by the National Symphony Orchestra with special guest Wallis Bird. They heard a selection of music from the Romantic Era and some film Music from Star Wars.

The school was full of green as students and staff marked the end of Energy Awareness Week with a non-uniform day. A range of events took place throughout the week, helping to raise awareness and encourage positive action around energy use. It was encouraging to see such enthusiasm and participation across the school. Well done to our Green-Schools Ireland Committee for all their good work organising the week.



ENERGY AWARENESS WEEK

Congratulations to our recipients of the February Academic Awards 2026. These students were the biggest improvers from November to the February exams. Thanks to Ms Keating for tracking every student's progress and compiling the list!



ACADEMIC AWARDS

PAST PUPILS UNION



Following our Junior Footballers' South Leinster A success and our First Year footballers reaching the Leinster Final, our Past Pupils Union generously presented both panels with half-zip tops.



PITCH DEVELOPMENT FUNDRAISING LAUNCH



COMING SOON