

THE BUZZ

NEWSLETTER @ THEINSTITUTE OF EDUCATION DUBLIN

05.01.2026



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



We are delighted to share that 4th year Catherine Huisan Xu (pictured above) scored an extraordinary 144 out of 150 on the AMC 10, taken by 4th year students worldwide. This places Catherine in the top 1% globally! We also had an outstanding top scorer in the AMC 12 exam which is for 5th and 6th years. 5th year student Shiqing Zhang (pictured below) scored an impressive 118.5. Both Catherine and Shiqing have met the qualifying threshold for the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME), we wish them the very best as they progress in the competition. The AIME is part of the selection pathway for the U.S. Mathematics Olympiad team, though international students who qualify may also participate for fun. Congratulations as well to our other AMC 10 top scorers: Bohan Zhang, Aadya Krithika Santosh, Linzhe Song, Timothy Lau and Mark Federenko, and to our top AMC 12 scorers: Wenlin Jiang, Xiaozhen Yu, Harris Mirza, Boyuan Qiu and Haowen Wang. A big thank you to Oliver Murphy for organising the competition.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Well done to all of our 4th years who gave up their time over the Christmas holidays to volunteer as gift wrappers in Kilkenny Design, in support of the Irish Cancer Society. Volunteering took place throughout December, including weekends, right up until Christmas Eve. This commitment to helping others has been evident all year. Our 4th years have proven to have as much energy as generosity of spirit, running two bake sales, the Hope shoebox appeal and a craft sale, in support of charitable causes. On the final day of school before the holidays, they also led our annual Christmas Jumper Day collection. Thanks to both online and cash donations, an impressive €6,005 was raised for Focus Ireland. Sincere thanks to everyone who collected, baked, crafted, cleaned up, volunteered, and donated. It has been a fantastic collective effort in 2025 in support of very worthy causes, and a wonderful example of community spirit in action. We look forward to seeing what you all get up to in 2026. Happy New Year everyone!





STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Well done to Alexa Murphy (above left) and Amelie Vrankova (above right), both in 4th year, on their victory in our Christmas Bridge competition! If you're interested in learning a new game, meeting new people, or even winning some chocolatey prizes, why not give Bridge a try? Everyone is welcome. Bridge takes place every Monday at 3.30pm in room G-4.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to 5th year Khalid Omer Khalid who won the ATII Translation Competition for secondary school students in the Arabic Category. ATII is the Association of Translators and Interpreters Ireland and the competition asked Irish secondary school students to translate an excerpt from a novel or short story from one of eleven languages. The award ceremony was held in Trinity College in the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation on the 29th of November 2025. A prize of €100 and a certificate was awarded for the best translation in each language. Khalid translated the text 'A mask of the Colour of the Sky' by Bassam Khandaqji from Arabic to English. Students were asked to translate one of the following languages into English: Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish or Ukrainian, or from English into Irish. This hugely successful translation competition for secondary school students in Ireland is now in its tenth year, well done Khalid!



GUIDANCE

HI STUDENTS



WELCOME BACK

We hope you had a fantastic Christmas break and we wish you a very happy, healthy and productive 2026.

CAO

Final push for 6th years to get their CAO accounts open before the discounted application fee of €35 expires at 5pm on January 20th. It makes no sense to pay more than necessary! After this time, the fee increases to the standard rate of €50 until the main closing date of February 1st at 5pm.



EUROPE

Many courses in Europe, particularly the Netherlands have January deadlines so make sure to get your applications in on time as late applications are not considered.



THURSDAY TALK

Thursday 8th January: 12:30pm - 1:20pm in HG-1

This week's talk with guest speakers is on Architecture. Feel free to bring your lunch - but please do not be late!



OPEN DAYS

Friday January 9th: RCSI from 10.15am to 4pm

"The Open Day is the perfect opportunity for prospective RCSI students to explore our 26 York Street campus building, meet current RCSI students, find out key information about the transition to university life and get all your burning questions answered. Prospective students will also have the opportunity to participate in a hands-on workshop, which will help you better understand what it's like to be a student at RCSI."

Saturday January 17th: UL from 9am to 2pm

"Academic talks, one-on-one chats with faculty, and student union interactions. Special Events: The Irish World Academy will host showcases, including course talks and performances."

Saturday January 24th: NCI from 10am to 1pm

"NCI's CAO Open Days give students the chance to speak to current NCI staff, students and faculty members before filling out their CAO form. At our Open Days, you will learn what it's like to be a student at NCI, find out more information about the courses and see where you would be studying if you chose NCI. You will have the opportunity to tour the NCI campus and get a sense of college life."

You must register online for these events.

Have a lovely week ahead,

Liz, John, John, Sarah, Margaret & Helen



CANTEEN SPECIALS



Mon: Chicken Teriyaki with Fried Noodles & Asian Greens €6

Tues: BBQ Pulled Pork Burger with Jalapeño Coleslaw, Rocket & Skinny Fries €6

Wed: Slow Cooked Honey & Mustard Chicken Thighs with Mash & Mixed Greens €6

Thurs: Korean Style Chicken Wings with Egg Fried Rice €6

Fri: Beef Cheese Burgers with Skinny Fries €6



WELLBEING WEEK

Next week is Wellbeing Week, we will be sending out a full programme of events later in the week so check your email for full details. Highlights are also on your monthly calendar.



MASTERCLASSES



This Tuesday, January 6th, we have a Masterclass in French with Patrick Fitzsimons. It is for 5th & 6th years and is in room G-7 at 5:30pm.



This Wednesday, January 7th, we have a Masterclass in English with Liam Dingle. It is for 5th & 6th years and is live online at 7pm. *Link is on your Moodle.*



REVISION CLASSES



Every Mon, Tues, Wed & Thurs we have drop in revision classes in HL Maths with Hilary. For 6th years from 7:55-8:27am in 2-3 & for 5th yrs 8:30 - 9am in L2-2.



Every Monday we have a drop in revision class in Economics with Rob. It is for 6th yrs in HG-0 / 4:30-5:30pm. Rob covers a new topic each week.



Every Tues & Fri we have drop in revision in Biology with Roisin in G-4. For 6th yrs from 7:57 - 8:27am. **Bring a set of Biology past papers with you to get the most out of the workshop.**



Every Wednesday we have a drop in revision class in HL Maths with Aidan. It is for 6th yrs in H1-0 / 3:30-4:30pm. Aidan covers a new topic each week.