

# THE BUZZ

NEWSLETTER @ THEINSTITUTE OF EDUCATION DUBLIN

18.05.2026



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



We are delighted to share that two Institute group projects were winners at SciFest@College which is the regional round of SciFest and have progressed to the Nationals. It is hosted in third-level colleges with second-level students presenting STEM projects to judges from academia and industry. This year 69 projects were entered in the Dublin regionals and only four of these progressed to the Nationals. Our 4th years (pictured above) Tavishi Mishra, Palak Rudraki and Leo Zihan Xu won the Boston Scientific Medical Devices Award with their project: "NeuroTrace - Connecting cognitive behavioural observations with clinical dementia assessment through a caregiver-assisted digital platform". And our 6th years (pictured below), Alexander Vysotski and Conor O'Neill won Runners-Up with their project "Tact AI". We wish them all the very best of luck in the SciFest Nationals 2026.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to 6th year Lauren Foster, 5th years Catherine McElroy and Keelin O'Donovan and 4th year Alexa Murphy (pictured above) and 6th year Clodagh Gray who are the Leinster Rugby Metro League champions with their team Enniscorthy RFC. They put in an amazing performance and beat Clontarf 52-0, in the final, to take home the title.

Well done to 6th year student Nayan Levy (pictured below) who has been accepted onto the degree in trumpet performance at the world-renowned Conservatorium van Amsterdam (CvA). The CvA offers Bachelor's and Master's degrees in trumpet performance, specializing in classical, jazz, and early music. The programme provides rigorous training to prepare students for professional careers, with admission based on digital recordings and live auditions.





Congratulations to 4th year student Gabriela Ivanova (pictured above) who had great success in *The Ultimate Performing Art Challenge* in Dundalk on the 10th of May. Gabriela was awarded three 1st place prizes at the event in the singing categories: World, Open, and Duet. Gabriela also recently participated as a special guest singer at *The Big Sing*, which was held at the National Stadium in Dublin on the 22nd of April. During the event, she performed both a solo piece and a duet.



6th years Akshita Ramesh and Nessa Mooney and 5th year Winni Chan (all pictured above), have had a fantastic year of sporting achievements in Badminton. Akshita and Nessa represented Dublin in the highly competitive Inter-Counties U19 finishing as Runners-Up in the Division 1 Finals. Akshita and Winni were winners of the U19 Dublin Juvenile League Mixed Doubles. Akshita and Winni also finished as Runners-Up at the Westside Fest, where Akshita additionally earned a Bronze medal in Singles. Well done everyone!



Congratulations to 5th years Bora Tuna Ozalp, Carol Cheng and Cindy Chen (pictured above) who have won The Institute's annual English Poster Competition. This year the theme was Shakespeare's Othello and we loved to see the diversity of style and subject matter produced.

Congratulations to 6th year Sinead Yangyang Glynn (pictured below) who was awarded first place in the O16 Piano Solo at the Wesley Interschools Music Festival. The Interschools Music Festival is a musical event for primary and secondary level students. It aims to give pupils the opportunity to perform, representing their schools within a musical forum. The competitions cover a range of musical genres including classical, rock and traditional. The festival which celebrates 50 years this year, provides a platform for young performers to gain confidence and experience in front of an encouraging audience. We were delighted to have Sinead represent our school at this event.



Well done to 6th year Ailsa Morris and her team Pembroke who have had a fantastic year. Pembroke won their Div 7 Hockey League and also came 2nd in the Leinster Women's Div 7 Cup Final. Ailsa (pictured above holding the cup) also took home 2 medals as team goalkeeper.

4th year Eimear O'Loughlin (pictured below) has just returned from South Africa where she took part in the Mellon Educate TY Blitz in the township of Khayelitsha. Whilst there Eimear visited an orphanage where children from 3 months to 6 years live and assisted with a literacy and feeding programme in different schools. In one school Eimear also helped make a concrete path leading to their sports grounds, a covered shelter and painted some classrooms. Eimear and her Mum Mary also contributed to building a home for a family on the trip. "It was a truly amazing opportunity and we have memories that will last a lifetime. I would recommend to any incoming TY students to try do this if they can, it is so rewarding."





St. Vincent's Waterpolo Club has four Institute students on their team: 6th years Luka Cvetkovic and Ethan Noonan and 5th years Daniel Liu and Davide Scaringella (all pictured above). They had a great year with the club, a highlight of which was winning the Irish Under-19 Waterpolo Cup in the UL Sports Arena in Limerick. A fantastic achievement and we wish them all the best with their future sporting endeavours.



6th year Ella Wiecekowska has been juggling her Leaving Cert studies with her football commitments this year. Ella travelled to Las Vegas with DBS (David Berber Sports), after a series of trials over several weeks, to play in the Majors Cupover, which ran over eight days. They played a total of six games having a clean sheet in every game including the final. They won the final in penalties. Ella was captain and had a total of five assists in all matches.



6th year twins Dani and Beni Hajnal (pictured above and below) have had an incredibly busy year preparing for the Leaving Cert and travelling the world as pickle-ball champions. Dani had this to say about their year: "They say twins share a secret language, but for my brother and I, that language is now spoken in dinks, drives, and the occasional overhead smash. Over the last two years, pickle-ball has transformed from a hobby into the defining rhythm of our lives, and into a constant reason to go abroad every few weeks. In the last year, we have played 22 international tournaments. We were in an airport almost every second week, travelling off to a different country to go play a sport we never thought would become such a huge part of our lives. A sport which my brother and I first played eight years ago as a joke while at a tennis camp and just laughed it off as "fake tennis," now has us travelling the world, making friends, connections and gaining sponsorships that we never imagined possible." Some Highlights of the year included the honour of being part of "Team Ireland," 18+ for the European Pickleball Championships in September 2025, the Reballution Cup Rota 2025 where they brought home a gold from men singles and silver from men's doubles.



**Calling all students!** Get involved in my *Zamda* mission this summer by bringing in preloved clothes and shoes for all ages. Please bring them in on Tuesday the 19th of May to the Ground Floor breakout area.

Zamda is a charity that has worked for the last 20 years to set up the school "Sables Nua", in Kabwe, in Zambia! In Kabwe, clothing is old, education is a privilege, and proper nutrition is uncommon. Things we take for granted only exist in their dreams. By donating, you can help me help them! We need items suitable for all ages, from newborns all the way up to 18-19 years old. We are collecting for both boys and girls. The climate in Zambia varies from hot and humid, to dry and chilly, so all types of clothing is desired. Many of these children walk up to 10km to school each day from the local slum so items like socks, sandals, trainers, and flip flops would help ease their long commutes. Bonus: I will be taking many photos on my trip so your preloved items may get a special feature and you can see just how much joy you will have brought! :) Thank you for your support, **Sarah Gordon, 5th year.**



## HI STUDENTS



### 5TH YEAR: CAO/UCAS/EUROPE & US

Recording of the Guidance talk on applications, and the slides from the talk, are available on Moodle for all 5th years - please make sure to watch it if you could not attend one of the talks last week.



### 5TH YEAR: UCAS OPEN

The UCAS application portal opened last week and anyone intending to study in the UK can start their applications. The early closing date for all medicine, dentistry and veterinary courses in universities and for any course in Oxford or Cambridge is **October 15th, 2026**. The final internal deadline for our students to have completed their application is the **25th September 2026**, to allow the school to add predicted grades, school references and check that everything is in order. Students applying for other courses will be able to apply to UCAS before the later deadline of **January 13th, 2027**.



### 5TH YEAR: UCAT & MORE

Any student who wishes to study medicine or dentistry in the UK from September 2027 is required to sit the UCAT later this summer. Registration for the UCAT opens at **2pm on Wednesday 20th May** and the fee is £115. There are a number of other admissions tests such as LNAT (Law), ESAT (Engineering and Science), TMUA (Mathematics), TARA (Humanities) – and for students applying to Oxford or Cambridge such tests have to be taken before October. Please make sure to check the respective websites for information on test registration, test dates and preparation resources. These tests also have to be taken for admission to some other universities (e.g. LSE, UCL, Imperial etc.).



### 6TH YEAR GRADUATION

Best wishes to all our 6th year students who are graduating next Monday, the 25th of May. You have been a wonderful group to work with all and we wish you all the best for your Leaving Certificate examinations and for the future. As this is our last Buzz of the year we wish to take this opportunity to wish all our students, parents and guardians a very good summer.

*The Guidance Team*



## ★ MASTERCLASSES



This Monday the 18th of May, we have a Chemistry Masterclass with Enda Dowd. It is Leaving Cert revision for 6th years at 4:30pm Online, link is on Moodle.



Three of our 5th Year Mandarin students, Xingjian Cao, Fiona Weng and Eva Ruixin Chen (all pictured above with their teacher Yun Wu), successfully qualified for the Global Final of the 9th Global Chinese Recitation Competition, following the Ireland Regional Final held on the 26th of April. Xingjian Cao won the Gold Award in the Youth Category, while Fiona Weng and Eva Ruixin Chen received 3rd Prize.

Some more great news from our Mandarin students, two of our 6th Year students, Stella Wei and Yutong Li, (pictured below) achieved outstanding success in the World Chinese Essay Competition. This is a prestigious international competition attracting entries from more than 30 countries. Stella won a Special Prize, one of the highest honours, while Yutong received a Second Prize. These achievements are particularly impressive given the demands of a busy Leaving Certificate year.



## 🍴 LITTLE CANTEEN OPEN



The Little Canteen on the 2nd floor breakout area is open Monday - Friday this week. The Main Canteen at No. 25 Lesson Street is closed.

## 📖 REVISION CLASSES



6th year Revision classes all go ahead as normal this week in Maths (Aidan and Hilary), Economics (Rob) and Biology (Roisin). We also have a final History revision (Stephen). All items are detailed on your May Calendar.