

Newsletter

June 2025

Class of 2025

The end of every school year is always tinged with a little sadness as we bid farewell to our Sixth Class. Graduation takes place on Wednesday 25 June and we very much look forward to celebrating this special event with Sixth Class and their parents and guardians. It has made us immensely proud to watch the Class of '25 grow, mature and blossom into such wonderful young adults over the past eight years. We encourage them to embrace all that secondary school has to offer, to stay active and to take good care of their mental health. We hope that they remain kind to themselves and to others. We gently remind them that a follower count is not the same as the support and companionship of a real-life friendship. We hope they retain their curiosity and a thirst for learning. We hope that when they look back, they treasure their memories of GANS, the experiences they shared and the friends they made along the way. As they leave us to embark on their next exciting adventure, there are two things we are absolutely sure of – that a GANS friend is a friend for life and for the Class of '25, the future is very very bright.

Sports Days

We had four brilliant sports days this month – despite the weather doing its best to thwart us! The focus for Sports Day is on participation and having fun and there were sprint races, javelin throwing, sack races, three legged races and the egg & spoon. We were delighted that so many parents, guardians, grandparents and carers could join us – and win the tug-of-war!



First Holy Communion/Confirmation 2025/26

If you want your child to make their First Holy Communion or Confirmation during the 2025/26 school year, please make sure you complete and return a registration form before Friday 27 June. Forms and details [can be found here](#). Please note the form needs to be returned directly to the parish office – parishoffice@newtownparkparish.com - not the school.

New tracksuit top

Our tracksuit top has had a mini glow-up. Following feedback from parents to the PTA, the new tracksuit top has a quarter zip design and no hood. Many felt that the hood was too bulky, especially for our smaller pupils – and also difficult to wash and dry. In response, the PTA discussed alternative options with the school, and it was decided to change to a 1/4 zip top, in the same material as the hoodie. With the new tracksuit top now available from Uniformity, the current one will be phased out over time. There is no pressure to buy a new top as both tops can be worn. The crest on the polo shirt has also been updated and both versions of the polo can continue to be worn.

Delphi

Sixth Class spent three nights at Delphi in late May and judging by how exhausted they were on their return; they made the most of every minute. Not wanting to waste too much time on sleep, instead they focused on fun. They climbed boulder walls, navigated obstacle courses through the bog and learned how to safely build and light campfires. Friendships were consolidated as they hiked, abseiled and kayaked their way across the resort, ensuring the Delphi trip is one they'll always remember.



Afterschool activities 2025/26

The afterschool activities schedule for next year is now confirmed. There is a wide range of activities available – from tennis, Spanish, chess and sport to Kung Fu, self-defence, drama and dance. To view the schedule, please [click here](#), or visit the 'information for parents' section of the website. If you have any questions, need more information about any of the activities available, or want to book a place for September, please contact the provider directly.

Voluntary contribution

The Board of Management wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to all those who have made a voluntary contribution to the school. Contributions are entirely voluntary and not in any way an expectation. All contributions are so appreciated and used for the benefit of all pupils. The payment portal on Aladdin will remain open until the end of June.

Team building

We were delighted to recently welcome Team Works to the school to run team building activities with Fourth and Fifth Class. Both classes have been regrouped ahead of the new school year, and it was a lovely opportunity for them to mix, play games and work together to solve practical problems. Team Works were very impressed with their maturity, their ability to work as a team and how well they listened to each other. Fourth and Fifth have enjoyed a number of activities together to help get to know each other – including a very competitive football blitz.



Dublin Youth Choir

The Dublin Youth Choir is seeking new members to join their choirs. It is not necessary to have music training/education to apply and in particular they really want to welcome singers from schools not yet represented in DYC. You can find more specific information on their website <https://www.dublinyouthchoir.com/the-choirs>.

Pupils not returning

The new school year begins on Wednesday 27 August. If for any reason your child is not returning after the summer, please let us know as soon as possible, to help us manage our waiting lists.

Fun Day

We held our annual Fun Day on Thursday 5 June. With a bouncy castle, inflatable obstacle course and giant games for our junior classes to enjoy - and ice-cream for the whole school – Fun Day certainly lived up to its name.



Final notes

The school calendar for 2025/26 is available to view in the 'information for parents' section of the website, or by [clicking here](#). The first day of our new school term is Wednesday 27 August. Stationery lists and fees and charges lists have been distributed. We try very hard to keep our fees and charges for the school year as low as possible. We face extensive costs every school year and the fees cover pupil insurance for your child, art and craft materials, paper and stationery costs.

It has been another incredibly busy year at GANS and our sincere thanks to all parents and guardians for your continued support throughout the school year.

We also wish to say a very special thank you to our wonderful PTA for their ongoing partnership – as well as their amazing fundraising skills! A final thanks you to the entire GANS team of teachers, SNAs and staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment throughout the year.

Don't forget **we finish at 12.30** on Friday 28 June. We wish you all a healthy, happy – and hopefully warm and sunny – summer break.



Update from GANS PTA



Date for the diary: 27 August – new junior infants parents coffee morning

Other points of note

Readathon – final amount raised €2659

Uniform swap – The May event was a great success and hopefully some managed to pick up some useful items. It is also a great opportunity to clear out and recycle.

6th class can drop any uniform items at the school on the last few days of term. Please ensure any items are clean and in good condition. We will hold another swap event in September when the new school year begins.

Volunteers – A huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered at various events throughout the year. The help and contributions from the school community are key to the success of these events and very much appreciated.

Overview of Fundraising - The PTA would like to like to thank all the children, parents, staff and wider GANS family for all their fundraising efforts over the last year. Together we raised over €19,000 which, as always, is spent in enhancing the GANS experience for its students.

Our main fundraising events included the Sponsored Walk (which raised over €7,500), Cake Sale (€5,100), Readathon (€2,600), Halloween Disco (€1,000) and Christmas Cards (€800).

During the year, we paid for enhancements to the Halla's sound system and lighting (€1,000), purchased music equipment (€1,800) and furnished some reading nooks (€800). We also hosted Communion, Confirmation and graduation events for students and their families and purchased the commemorative 6th class hoodies.

At the year end, we currently have €18,000 funds available, of which we have earmarked €8,000 to upgrade computer equipment for the school.

If anyone has any suggestions on how we could continue contribute to enhance our children's school experience, or any suggestions for fundraising events, please do not hesitate to contact us on ptaguardianangels@gmail.com

New PTA members – would you like to join the PTA? It is a great opportunity to get to know the school, parents, teachers and to have a say in how the funds are used for the benefit of the whole school community. If you would like to join please complete the [PTA volunteer form](#) and email it to the PTA or give to an existing member.

We wish you all a very happy summer break, and we will see you back in September.

A reminder that the various school policies including phones and social media can be found here at <https://www.guardianangels.ie/policies/>.

Thank you on behalf of GANS PTA <https://www.guardianangels.ie/pta/>