



Roscrea/Birr School Completion Programme



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. The excitement is building as we reach the end of our first term, and what a busy term it has been for the School Completion Programme.

This term, Margaret Blake and Rachel Moloney delivered six sessions of the SCP 'Preparing to Transfer to Post-Primary School Programme' to the sixth-class boys. During these sessions, they covered topics such as: making new friends, emotions and empathy, dealing with stress, managing time and getting ready to move on to post primary school. SCP looks forward to continuing with this programme next term.

Some boys from sixth class participated in our 'Let's Read Pal!' programme. This programme took place weekly in Birr library for five weeks. During this time, the boys were matched with Transition Year Students. Together, they worked on a project of their choosing. On completion of their programme, the boys presented their project on 'Lamine Yamal' in St. Brendan's Community School.



As part of our interschools' programme for sixth class, SCP facilitated a treasure hunt around Birr town. This provided sixth class pupils from St. Brendan's Boys' School, Mercy Primary School and Oxmantown National School with an opportunity to meet and spend some time together. We look forward to our next interschool event in March, when we take to the floor for our annual Céilí.

The LifeSkills Programme was delivered to Mr. Kennedy's fourth class by Margaret. This nine-week programme discussed topics such as smoking, vaping, self-esteem, communication, assertiveness and Good Decision Making.

We were delighted to introduce baby Raeya to Miss Dooley and the boys in second class. The boys are participating in the 'Roots of Empathy Programme'. Facilitated by Margaret, the 'Roots of Empathy' programme helps children to understand their feelings and the feelings of others by helping them to regulate their emotions and relate to one another. It also looks at the baby's development during their first year. This programme will continue for the rest of the school year. Along with her mam Mary-Kate, baby Raeya visits the boys every third Thursday. We are so grateful to Mary-Kate for sharing the development of Raeya's first year with us.



On Tuesday afternoons, seven boys were joined by four girls from the Mercy Primary School for our Afterschool Group. We were delighted to be supported by Ber Brophy from OLDC who facilitated the ‘Cool Dude’ programme. This HSE funded and designed programme discussed nutrition, understanding of food and food labels. Along with cooking, the group got to sample the delicious food they cooked. On completion of the programme, each participant received a certificate. The afterschool group also got to spend time in Birr swimming pool and Birr Library. We look forward to continuing with this programme in the new year.



Along with our class and group work, we were delighted to offer some pupils extra support with attending and engaging in school.

We are looking forward to next year. Along with continuing some of our existing programmes, Mairead Keevey will facilitate the Socialisation Programme with Ms Pilkington’s junior infants’ class. This is a fun eight-week programmes that supports communication, relationships and emotional literacy.

The SCP team would like to thanks most sincerely the staff of St. Brendan’s Boys’ school, the School Principal, Mr. Crofton and HSCL, Ms Carey for all their support with our programme delivery. We also take this opportunity to wish everyone in St. Brendan’s Boys’ School and their families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. We look forward to picking up from where we left off in 2025.

Mairead Keevey

Roscrea/Birr School Completion Programme Co-ordinator

