SCOIL RUÁIN - EDITION 1 - NOVEMBER 2026

THE GREEN GLOBE

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Keeping our school clean & green
- Scifest Science Competition
- Climate Action Week Cleanup
- Rubbish Film Festival

and much more!

OUR SCOIL RUÁIN COMMUNITY IS MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE



WELL DONE TO OUR 2ND YEAR STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE TEAM TIPP CLEAN UP THIS CLIMATE ACTION WEEK. THEY PICKED UP ALMOST 25 KG OF LITTER AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

RUBBISH FILM FESTIVAL



What would happen if everything you took for granted suddenly disappeared?

This was the question explored by 12 TY students during a two-day filmmaking workshop with Create Schools on the 28th and 29th of September; Dave from Create Schools came in to give the 12 TYs a workshop on film making which went on the full two days, In these two days students made a short film about sustainability and acting with the environment. The students came up with the idea of the film after asking themselves questions about the film and how they want it to start and end and what their message would be, Dave from Creative Schools encouraged them to think about the message they want to get across before they actually start making the movie.

The students then made a mind map to get the idea of the story and wrote everything down on the whiteboard to remember it, keep record of what scene they were on and so that they could gradually cross some off.

Aidan and Alex were recording while Cian was the director with me working on set design and Ruari being the supervisor and many more jobs were assigned between everyone on the team.

Our film follows a man who is just living life normally in the comfort of his home until gradually things start to slowly vanishing until suddenly it all disappears and he is left with nothing after ignoring several warnings to take action on climate.

Billy did a great job on the editing and gave our film a great chance of being successful and maybe progressing onto the next round.

We found some problems when it came to finding a schedule that everyone could follow due to some of the team having matches and other activities.

The message this short film aims to get across is that you have to take action when the warnings start showing or else everything will go suddenly and no one will have anything because they refused to take action quickly. In this workshop students learned how to make films and about editing while also learning about sustainability along the way which made many realize the importance of the environment and how rapid its decline is so if no one takes action soon it will all be gone before future generations can enjoy its beauty.

Dave helped us a lot as he taught us how to do each job and was very patient with all of us with our ideas and took each suggestion openly and it went so much better overall thanks to Dave. He helped the students plan out the short film and has given us the chance to progress.

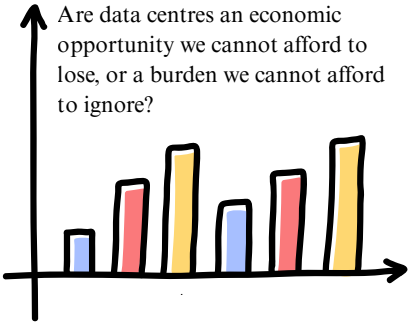




DATA CENTRES: POWERING IRELAND'S FUTURE OR DRAINING IT?



Imagine opening Google, streaming Netflix or sending a message without ever thinking about what powers it all. Behind the screen are huge data centres — but are they powering Ireland's future or draining its resources?
Ireland currently has 107 operational data centres, with another 22 under construction. Together, they use around 23% of Ireland's electricity and approximately 810 million litres of water each year — equal to about 400 Olympic-sized swimming pools. This represents around 0.13% of Irish Waters annual supply.
However, data centres also bring major economic benefits. They support thousands of jobs, attract multinational technology companies like Google and have contributed around €2.2 billion in net value, while generating approximately €280 million in employment-related tax.
With benefits such as jobs, investment and links to renewable energy, data centres clearly have advantages. However, their huge demand for electricity and water raises serious questions about their impact on Ireland.
Are data centres an economic opportunity we cannot afford to lose, or a burden we cannot afford to ignore?



POWERING PROGRESS: THE CASE FOR DATA CENTRES

WHY IRELAND?
Ireland has become a major technology hub in Europe. Having data centres here helps attract some of the world's biggest technology companies and gives them the infrastructure they need to operate. Data centres support industries such as AI, healthcare, banking, online shopping and cloud computing.

A GREENER DIGITAL FUTURE
Ireland is also taking steps to make the growth of data centres more sustainable. On 13 January 2026, the Government published its Large Energy User Action Plan (LEAP). The plan encourages large energy users, including data centres, to locate closer to renewable energy sources. Under the plan, new data centres must provide additional energy generation onsite or nearby, with 80% coming from renewable sources. This could allow Ireland to continue developing its technology industry while also increasing the use of clean energy.

THE BOTTOM LINE
Data centres are not perfect, but their benefits are hard to ignore. They create jobs, bring investment into Ireland, generate tax revenue, develop valuable skills and support many of the technologies we use every day. Ireland shouldn't turn its back on the digital future. We should make that future as sustainable as possible.

POWER HUNGRY: ARE DATA CENTRES DRAINING IRELAND?

In my opinion, the rapid growth of data centres is becoming too much for Ireland to handle. I believe we are putting too much pressure on our electricity supply, water and environment just to keep our digital world running.

A HUGE APPETITE FOR POWER
The biggest issue for me is electricity.
Data centres need enormous amounts of power because their servers have to run 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In 2025, data centres used 23% of Ireland's total metered electricity consumption, compared with just 5% in 2015. Almost a quarter of Ireland's metered electricity is being used by data centres.
At the same time, Ireland has ambitious climate targets, including reducing greenhouse-gas emissions by 51% by 2030.
So I have to ask: how can we become a greener country if our electricity demand keeps rising at this rate?

IT'S NOT JUST ELECTRICITY
Electricity isn't my only concern. Data centres produce huge amounts of heat from their servers, meaning they need cooling systems to keep everything working. Some cooling systems use water, putting additional pressure on another valuable resource.
I know Ireland gets plenty of rain, but that does not mean our water supply should be taken for granted. With climate change and extreme weather becoming bigger concerns, I don't think we should be treating water as if it is unlimited.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE JOBS?
I am not saying data centres provide no benefits, but I don't believe money should be the only thing we look at.
What good is economic growth if it comes at the expense of our environment and puts huge pressure on our electricity and water supplies?



In my opinion, Ireland needs to find a balance.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!
I believe Ireland needs to seriously rethink the speed at which new data centres are being built.
I believe there needs to be a limit on how many Ireland can realistically support.
We need to stop asking:
"How many more data centres can we build?"
And start asking:
"How many can Ireland actually afford?"
Ireland wants to become a greener and more sustainable country. If that is genuinely what we want, then we cannot keep putting short-term economic benefits ahead of our long-term future.

SCIFEST SCIENCE COMPETITION 2026

Third Year Students Cillian Burgess and Ronan Walsh have been invited to submit their Scifest Project to compete in the shortlisting process for the Scifest National Final 2026 to be held in Marino Institute Dublin in early December.

Cillian and Ronan won the Eirgrid Cleaner Climate Award in TUS Thurles in April 2026 with their project "Waste not, Want not" - A study into use of bioethanol produced from food waste as an alternative energy source to fossil fuels.

The following gives a summary of their project: Bioethanol and Stirling Engine Project



For thousands of years, humans have used fermentation to produce alcohol. Records show that as early as 7000 BC in ancient China, fruit and rice were fermented into alcohol, a process later adopted by civilizations including the Egyptians, Greeks, Romans and Indians.
Today, that same process has inspired our project: converting organic waste into bioethanol, a renewable and sustainable fuel source.

Using waste fruit and vegetable materials, sugar and brewer's yeast, we produced bioethanol through fermentation. The bioethanol was then double-distilled and used as a fuel source to power a Stirling Engine, an external combustion engine invented by the Scottish inventor Reverend Robert Stirling.
Unlike internal combustion engines, the Stirling Engine operates using differences in temperature. When bioethanol burns, it heats one end of the engine while the other end remains cool. This temperature difference causes air inside the sealed engine to expand and contract, creating motion and generating power.

Our experiment demonstrates the Law of Conservation of Energy through a sequence of energy transformations:Chemical energy becomes heat energy.
Heat energy becomes mechanical energy. Mechanical energy becomes kinetic energy.
Kinetic energy becomes electrical energy. And electrical energy becomes light energy.



Bioethanol offers many advantages. It is a carbon-neutral fuel, meaning the carbon released during combustion is the same carbon absorbed by plants during photosynthesis. It burns cleanly, producing no soot, tar, unpleasant odours or harmful by-products. Because it is produced from renewable plant materials and organic waste, it offers a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels.

We believe bioethanol-powered Stirling Engines could provide emergency power during outages, support communities in developing countries, assist regions affected by war or disaster, and offer a cleaner long-term energy solution for the future.

Most importantly, our project demonstrates a win-win solution: reducing organic waste sent to landfill while creating a valuable source of renewable energy. Together, bioethanol and Stirling Engine technology show how simple scientific principles can help create a cleaner, more sustainable future.



We wish Cillian and Ronan every success in the shortlisting process and for their future research into this very worthwhile topic for the future sustainability of our world.

GIY WATERFORD

On Tuesday the 6th of October me and my class took a bus up to GIY which stands for Grow It Yourself, in Waterford. The facility was very good down there and the people who worked there, Mary, Mick and Richard, were very kind, respectful and seemed like they really enjoyed teaching us about their line of work. We were given a tour of the facilities and shown things like big piles of biodegradable waste such as cardboard and food waste that were used to feed many types of worms. They explained to us that they use these piles to feed the worms because the dung that the worms produce after feeding on the piles is the one of best fertilizers in the world.
We also tried some delicious home-grown russet apples that were grown on site. We were also treated with lunch that consisted of bread rolls and broccoli and pumpkin soup.

We were also given a crazy fact that many of the foods we buy in the shop are imported from around the world when they could be grown right here in Irish soil. For example, my group were given some sweet potatoes that were grown in Egypt and exported over 4,000 kms to Ireland. Some other groups had foods from places like South America and China that could be grown here. We took part in two workshops during our trip. One was the food growing. That was our tour around the facility where we were shown their worm feeding piles and apple trees. The second one was food empathy. In this workshop we were given foods like sweet potatoes and corn and told how far they came to get to Ireland. The food empathy workshop was especially interesting as it really opened our eyes to how food that we eat is imported from thousands of kilometres away.













CLIMATE ACTION WEEK CLEAN UP













KEEPING OUR SCHOOL CLEAN & GREEN

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR SCHOOL

Waste is something we produce every day. It can include food, plastic, paper, cans and many other things. If waste is not managed properly, it can cause problems for the environment and waste materials that could be reused or recycled.
Ireland produces a large amount of waste every year. In 2024, Ireland produced around 3.1 million tonnes of municipal waste 3.1 million tonnes is roughly equivalent to 4–6 Burj Khalifas in weight.

About 43% of this waste was recycled, while around 15% went to landfill. Although recycling has improved, there is still a lot more we can do. Waste is a problem because landfill takes up space and can harm the environment. Another problem is putting rubbish into the wrong bin. The EPA found that much of the waste placed in general waste bins could have been recycled or put into an organic-waste bin.

Our school has introduced a new waste-sorting system to help us deal with this problem. The new system gives students and staff a better chance to separate recycling, food waste and general waste. However, the system will only work if everyone uses it properly.

We asked our caretaker what he thought about the new system and whether he is happy with how it is working. This is what he had to say about it: “Overall the new bins are working really well, but there is still room for improvement when separating the waste. We introduced 2 new outside bins. We have found that these bins are being over used and therefore separation of waste isn’t happening. We may need to consider the need for these bins during school hours”.

We would encourage students and staff to take a moment to think before disposing there rubbish. It maybe worth considering the introduction of a visual board at bin locations to educate everyone on sustainability.

There are also ways the system could be improved. We could have clearer signs on the bins, more bins around the school and regular reminders about what goes where. Using the right bin is very important. If recyclable items are put in the wrong bin, they may not be recycled. By taking a few seconds to check which bin to use, we can reduce waste and help protect the environment. Everyone in our school has a part to play. If we all make the effort, our school can become cleaner, greener and better at recycling.









THE COSTUME CAULDRON









HALLOWEEN @ SCOIL RUÁIN









ROASTED PUMPKIN SEEDS



Please don't throw away those pumpkin seeds! Use our recipe and turn them into a delicious snack! After scooping out your seeds (they will be messy), we need to clean them of all those stringy bits.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ cups pumpkin seeds
- 2 teaspoons fine sea salt, plus more for serving
- 2 teaspoons olive oil, melted coconut oil, or nut oil like walnut
- 2 teaspoons favorite spice blend such as pumpkin pie spice, curry powder, harissa or chili powder

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F (177°C). Line baking sheet with parchment paper, set aside.
2. Fill a medium saucepan with 2 cups of water and season with 2 teaspoons of salt. Bring to a boil.
3. Meanwhile, scoop the seeds from your pumpkin. Add the pumpkin seeds to a bowl filled with cold water and swish them until they float and are mostly clean.
4. Add the cleaned seeds to the boiling salted water. Simmer for 5 minutes.
5. Drain and pull away any remaining pumpkin attached to the seeds.
6. Scatter the seeds onto clean dishcloths and pat them dry.
7. Mound the dried seeds onto the prepared baking sheet. Add the oil and spices, then toss until well coated.
8. Spread the seeds into one layer. Bake, stirring the seeds at least once, until fragrant and golden around the edges, 10 to 25 minutes, depending on the size of the seeds.

REVIEW

The pumpkin seeds were a great addition to the pumpkin soup above, adding a crunchy addition to the texture. This recipe is very useful to make every once in a while to have some on hand. -Emily K

Pumpkin seeds- Inspired taste by Adam Gallagher









PUMPKIN SOUP



INGREDIENTS

- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 bay leaf
- 25g/1oz unsalted butter
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium pumpkin (prepared weight about 850g/1lb 14oz) deseeded and roughly chopped
- 1 medium-sized potato, roughly chopped
- 1 litre/1¾ pint vegetable or chicken stock, a little extra may be needed
- 100ml/3½fl oz double cream
- 3 tbsp pumpkin seeds
- salt and freshly ground black pepper

1. Put the onion, carrots, garlic, bay leaf, butter and olive oil into a large pan. Cook over a low–medium heat for about 10 minutes until the vegetables are tender but not coloured.
2. Add the pumpkin and potato, mix to combine and cook for a further 2–3 minutes. Pour in the stock, season with salt and pepper and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to a gentle simmer, half cover the pan with a lid and continue to cook for about 40 minutes until the squash is really tender when tested with the point of a knife.
3. Pick out the bay leaf and blend the soup until smooth using a stick blender.
4. Add the cream and a little more stock if the soup is on the thick side, taste for seasoning, adding more salt and pepper as required.

You need to have this delightfully warming pumpkin soup recipe on hand for when autumn rolls around and there are pumpkins aplenty. It works just as well with dense orange squashes like butternut. Serve with a swirl of cream and some toasted seeds from the pumpkin.

REVIEW

The pumpkin soup was warming on a cold day with a nice texture and a sweet taste from the pumpkin. This is a very good dish for the cold month of October and a nice taste to come home to from trick-or-treating. -Benjamin B.

Pumpkin soup- BBC Food by Annie Rigg







HALLOWEEN

SOME MORE FUN COSTUMES.....







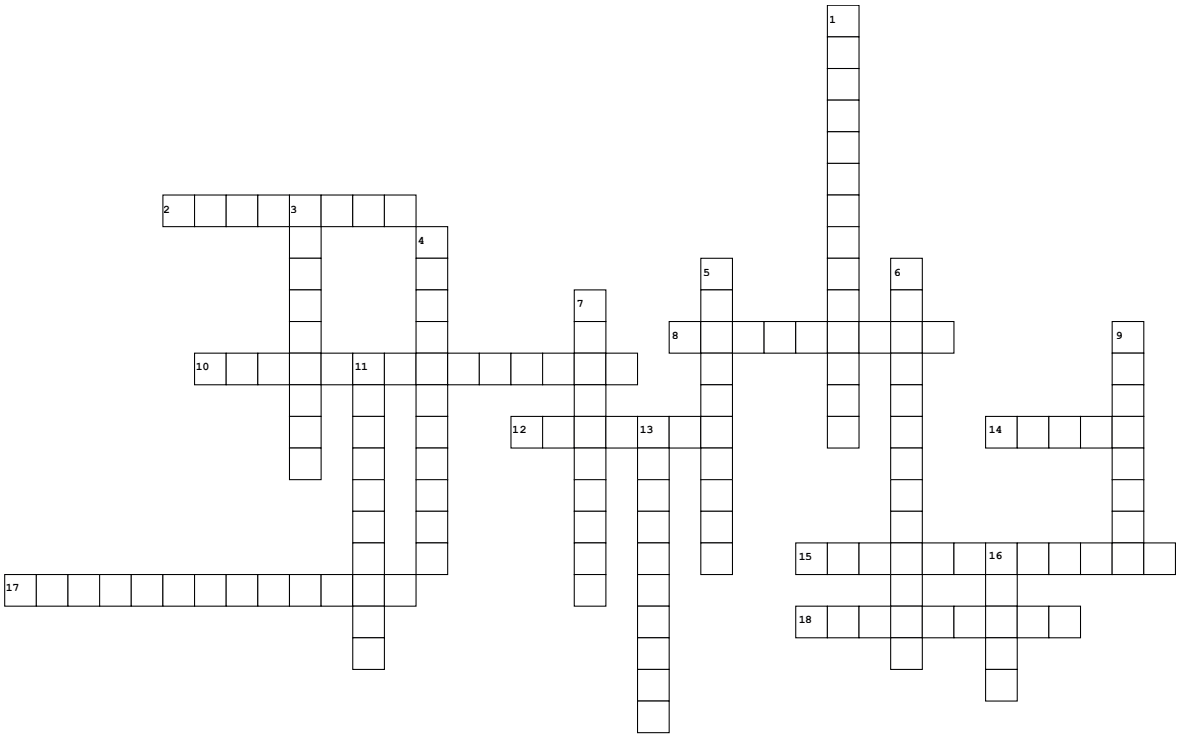
FUN FACTS ABOUT RECYCLING

5 Facts About Recycling

- 1. Recycling saves energy. Recycling just 10 plastic bottles saves enough energy to power a laptop for more than 25 hours.
- 2. Recycling protects natural resources. It reduces the need to take new materials from nature, such as trees, water and minerals.
- 3. Recycling reduces landfill waste. It helps keep rubbish out of landfills and reduces pollution.
- 4. Recycled materials can become new products. Old glass can be
- used in road surfaces, while recycled plastic can be turned into carpets and park benches.
- 5. Ireland recycled 60% of its packaging waste in 2024. This shows how important recycling is in reducing waste. Source: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Ireland







Across

2. A designated area where waste is placed into the ground
8. Contamination of the environment
10. Waste that comes from households
12. Reduce, Reuse, ?
14. Energy harnessed from the sun
15. Waste that comes from plants, animals or other living things
17. Energy harnessed from the flow of water
18. A night when children dress up in costumes and go trick-or-treating

Down

1. The delivery of computing services over the internet
3. A measure of how far the food travels to get to you
4. Not being harmful to the environment or depleting natural resources
5. Energy harnessed from natural heat
6. Organic waste that decomposes naturally over time.
7. A facility that houses and manages computer systems
9. Adding new features to an existing structure
11. A material used for keeping heat in or out
13. The act of collecting organic waste to use as fertilizer
16. Energy from sources that produce little to no harmful gasses during operation

