

Kindness at Slemish College

2025 – 2026



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01 Kindness that starts with our students

Over the last year, it has been great to see our young folk pursuing kindness projects and acts that they themselves have initiated. Here, the McConville siblings raised money for the NI Hospice through hosting a coffee morning.



02 An author's visit inspires a concert

We were delighted to have the author Onjali Rauf visit us in January to tell us about her charity supporting refugees encamped in Calais. Noah and Robyn in Year 9 (Year 8 in England) decided to organise a concert to raise money for Onjali's charity. I have attached the video message the children sent Onjali to tell her about their plans.

They raised £284.73!



03 Remembrance: honouring our newcomer communities

At our Remembrance celebration in November, we are always keen to remember the sacrifice of those from the original countries of our newcomer students. This time it was Poland, and it was inspiring to listen to some of our students, originally from Poland, tell us their home country's stories of heroism in World War 2. We believe this helps to foster an appreciation of the many countries reflected in the student population at Slemish.



04 Fundraising, week in, week out

Rarely a week goes by when we don't arrange simple fundraising events. Food is always a popular option! These are often initiated and arranged by the students.



05 Christmas giving

We continue to send a large number of Christmas gifts to children in poverty.



Classes were able to collect plenty of goods to fill Christmas hampers for those in need, and this year Slemish received an award for our consistent support of the Rotary Club's hamper appeal.



06 A school that truly serves ALL children

We have increased the number of students attending our school with severe learning difficulties. This is not without significant challenge, but we are proud to be a school that truly serves ALL children. We make sure we celebrate their success and make sure we can keep them in mainstream education, with us. For example, celebrating Riley's competition-winning Arctic flag, or creating a bespoke curriculum so we can keep Tom with us for Years 11 & 12 (10 & 11 in England).



07 Kindness to our environment

We've been emphasising kindness to our environment for the last year, and one event that reflects this was the day we planted trees.



08 The simple acts

Sometimes it's remembering to keep the simple acts of kindness coming ... especially when a year group, class or individual have been working hard and are being great community members.



Remembering birthdays when they fall on school trips:



09 Kindness across the generations

We continue to build links with our local folk, sharing mutual kindness across generations.



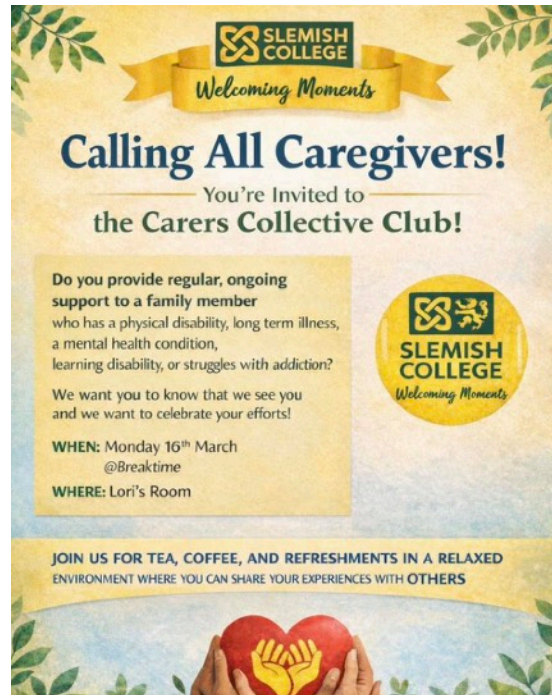
10 Preparing Year 14 for life beyond school

Taking Year 14 away to spend quality time together, and to help them prepare to leave school and go to university. We focus on the values they will take with them into life.



11 Seeing those with extra responsibility

Making sure those who have extra responsibility are seen:



12 Kindness to animals

Promoting kindness to animals involves practical experiences at Slemish:



13 Slemish in Kenya

This year we were also excited to have our first team go out to Kenya to support a small rural community there. The team was led by our principal, Mike Bennett, and his wife Kathy, who is our Head of English. The team built a house for a widow in the community. They were also involved in farming work. They were particularly pleased to visit the library we have founded in the village, which they have called the Slemish Library.



14 Cheering on our own

Kindness is also when all three Music teachers travel to London to see our Michael perform in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain.



15 Handle with care

Kindness at Slemish is making sure parents know that they don't always have to explain ...



16 Take 5 Platinum Award

We were very proud to receive the Take 5 Platinum Award!

The Take 5 School Award recognises schools that go above and beyond in promoting positive mental health and wellbeing across their entire school community. Achieving Platinum status is the highest level of recognition, celebrating a deep, sustained commitment to embedding the Take 5 steps to wellbeing — Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give — into everyday school life.



17 Celebrating a hero

Kindness at Slemish is wishing a hero a happy birthday and having a celebration party for him — even if he will likely never know.

