Top 10 Photography Tips

1. **Lighting** - Light can make or break your photo. Always try to find good natural light—like near a window or outside during sunrise or sunset. If photographing a person have them turn their face towards the light.

2. **Rule of Thirds** - This is the most basic rule of composition. Imagine your photo divided into nine equal parts. Place your subject along those lines or where they meet for a more balanced and interesting shot.

3. **Angles** - Most photos are taken straight on from standing height. Vary this by shooting from a high angle or getting down really low.

4. **2 Second Check** - There is nothing worse than a beautifully lit and composed portrait of someone with a lamppost coming out of their head. So, take 2 seconds to look around for distracting elements in your portrait. If you can't move the object, move yourself.

5. **Eye Contact** - The most obvious portrait is to have direct eye contact with your subject as it can be very powerful. But, consider having the subject looking off camera. You can include what they are looking at in the portrait or just give them space to "look in to" to give a bit of mystery.

6. **Keep your camera steady** - Shaky hands = blurry photos. Use both hands, steady yourself against something, or even use a tripod if needed.

7. **Close-ups** - Sometimes the magic is in the tiny details. Move in closer to highlight textures, patterns, or little features. No zoom? Use your feet and move closer! If safe to do so!

8. **Look for leading lines** - Roads, fences, rivers—lines that lead the viewer's eye into your photo can create stronger, more dynamic images.

9. **Play with reflections** - Water, mirrors, shiny surfaces—reflections add an extra layer of creativity to your photos.

10. **Practice, practice, practice!** Like anything else, practice makes better. Keep shooting, experimenting, and learning—you'll be amazed how quickly you improve.

Competition Time! €450 in Prizes!!

Students of Malahide Community School
may submit 3 photos each of their own original work.

JUNIOR CATEGORY 1st to 3rd years,   SENIOR CATEGORY 4th to 6th years

Submit entries with name & class.year to photos@malahidecs.ie

Closing date: 28 April 2025