



Parents' Update December 2020

Dear Parents(s)/Guardian(s),

Term Reports

Reports will be available to view on VS Ware using [Parents Log in Details](#). from Tuesday 22nd December. At this stage teachers will have returned scripts with feedback to students on their work. We encourage students to reflect on their results and use feedback given by their teachers to inform future learning.

Parent Teacher Meetings

We will be communicating updates to parents in the new year in relation to Parent Teacher Meetings. We will be providing additional reports to all families in the new year (dates to be confirmed). These reports will be additional progress reports to parents & guardians and will be accessed through the VS Ware system. Teachers will follow up with a conversation with parents where necessary.

Mock Exams

The mock exams for our Third & Sixth Year students will commence in early February. Sixth Years will start on **Monday 1st February** with Third Years commencing on **Wednesday 3rd February**. We will be posting further details to students in the new year. We would like to remind parents of third and sixth year students to check online to see if they have paid for their daughter/son's mock exam fees.

Junior Cycle Training

The Department of Education has requested that the College host a cluster day for Junior Cycle Training for teachers on **Monday 18th January**. The College will be closed for students on that day.

Charity Appeal

Many thanks to all families who supported our Senior Prefects Food Appeal for Direct Provision. Our senior students showed great leadership through their efforts and we applaud their efforts. The supplies collected have now been delivered to the Direct Provision Services in Dublin. The project is a reminder to all of us of the challenges many families within our communities are facing this Christmas.

LCA Concert

Congratulations to Rang Flynn for successfully hosting the annual LCA Concert online. We were unable to host the concert in our assembly hall this year due to Covid 19 and our Leaving Certificate Applied students and their teacher Ms Catherine Rafferty showed great resourcefulness by moving the concert onto an online platform. We would also like to congratulate all students who participated in the event and in particular to the huge number of first year students who participated in the "virtual concert". The concert also raised money for the charity Barnardos.

Great Geography Bake Off

Congratulations to all our first years who entered the Great Geography Bakeoff. Our first-year students were challenged to bake a cake that resembled an element of their first-year course. We had lots of cakes designed to represent Volcanoes, earthquakes, and landslides! The overall winner was Eoin O'Brien from Rang Deirdre. Many thanks to the Geography teachers for organizing the event.

Uniform

We appeal to all parents & guardians to ensure that your sons & daughters comply with College regulations. We would like to remind you that Grants our Uniform Suppliers are taking orders for School Gilets. During the cold weather these have provided an extra layer of comfort to our students. We would also like to remind parents of the importance of wearing the full PE School Uniform.

Medical Matters & Allergy Awareness:

We ask parents & guardians to please keep the College updated on medical matters relating to your sons & daughters. We would like to remind all who bring lunches or snacks to school that due to the number our students who have nut allergies, we are a nut free college. We thank all members of the College Community for their co-operation with this matter.

Child Protection Guidelines

We encourage all parents & guardians to familiarise themselves with our Child Protection Guidelines, which can be found on the College Website.

A Parent's Guide to Close Contacts - HSE

Please check the College website for a very important update from the HSE on "A Parent's Guide to Close Contacts". The Guide provides very practical advice for parents on the following areas:

- Close Contact
 - Restricting your Child's Movements
 - Protocols in relation to positive & negative test results.
-

Arrangements for Communicating Student Absence

1. If a student is going to be absent from school, the student's parent/guardian should email the Class Tutor by 8.30a.m. on the day of the absence. The reason for the absence should be outlined in the email. This absence will be noted on VS Ware.
2. If the absence relates to self-isolation or isolation due to medical advice, this information should be included in the email. If the student is waiting for a Covid-19 test, this should also be mentioned.
3. If the result of the Covid-19 test is negative, this should be communicated by email, to the Class Tutor ahead of the student's return to school. The student may need to complete the period of isolation and this should also be communicated.

4. If the result of the Covid-19 test is positive, the parent/guardian should communicate this information directly to the Principal who will act as liaison person from this point on. The HSE will contact the Principal and request records such as attendance, punctuality, seating plan, lunch arrangements and other information pertaining to the student and the other students in the class. The Principal, John Cronin's email address is: johncronin@castleknockcc.ie.
 5. The HSE officials will then communicate with the Principal, as Secretary of the Board of Management, and advise on how to proceed having considered all the information.
 6. The Principal will communicate with the school community as appropriate.
-

Health & Safety Matters

Cycling to School

We once again appeal to all students to be respectful of the rules of the road at all times. Regrettably we have had a number of calls to the College from members of the public expressing concern at our students cycling three/four abreast on the main roads and in some cases cycling on the footpaths. I would greatly appreciate if these students could exercise due caution in the coming weeks. I would also remind parents that over the winter months it is important that all bikes have the appropriate lighting.

We would also like to congratulate our first year students who have set the standard when it comes to wearing helmets. We do hope their good example will motivate other students to wear their helmets.

Parking on the slip road.

Many thanks to all parents who are working with the College in relation to traffic safety however can we appeal to the very small number of parents who make three point turns in their cars at the entrance to the College. These parents are placing the lives of our students at risk and in particular our cyclists!

We would also remind parents that we have received a number of calls from residents living close to the College. They have asked that I remind parents not to block gateways etc when waiting to collect their children from school.

Parents Association

The Parents Association meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 8.00p.m. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 2nd February at 8.00 p.m. through the online platform, Zoom. All parents are welcome to attend.

May we take this opportunity to thank you and the Parents Association for the sweets and fruit that you delivered to the College last week. Your kindness and recognition were very well received and greatly appreciated.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the last few months. One of the great strengths of Castleknock Community College is the partnership that exists between the school and the parents. You have ensured, in these most challenging of times, that this partnership continues to grow. There is no doubt that we would not have successfully managed the last four months without the support and goodwill of the parents. Many thanks to all those parents who

have supported our Appeal for Secondhand Laptops for students. There has been a steady flow of second-hand computers into the school over the last few weeks. All donations welcome.

School Calendar & Key Dates for January - February 2021

Wednesday 6 th January	College reopens
Tuesday 12 th January	Second Year Talk for Parents on the New Junior Cycle Programme & CBAS @ 7.00p.m.(Ms Teams)
Monday 18th January	College Closed for Junior Cycle Training (DES)
Tuesday 19 th January	LC1 Talk for Parents – Study Cycle & Planning for Third Level 2022 – The First Steps
Tuesday 26 th January	Third Year & TY Talk for Parents – Senior Cycle Options @ (MS Teams)
Wednesday 27 th January	First Year Parents 2021 – Talk on Junior Cycle Options. (MS Teams)
Monday 1 st February	Closing Date for CAO
Monday 1 st February	Mock Examinations commence for Sixth Years
Tuesday 2 nd February	Parents Association Monthly Meeting 8.00p.m. (Zoom)
Wednesday 3 rd February	Mock Examinations commence for Third Years
Saturday 6 th February	Entrance Assessment for First Years 2021
Friday 12 th February	Term ends
Monday 15th – Friday 19th incl.	Mid Term Break – College Closed

On behalf of the Board of Management and staff, we extend best wishes of the season to all families. We hope that Christmas will be a happy and peaceful period for our parents/guardians and students.

“Beannachtaí na Nollag daoibh go leir”

