



# August Newsletter 2022

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Dear Parents(s)/Guardian(s),

As we prepare to welcome back our students and staff for the new academic year, we would like to take this opportunity to update you on a number of matters.

## Bereavement Notices

The College community extended its sympathy and support to the Brogan and Clarke families in recent weeks.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden death of Seán Brogan in July of this year. Seán was the son of our colleague, Mr Paul Brogan. Our thoughts and prayers remain with Paul and his wife Una and their daughter Jess at this sad time.

We also extend our sympathies to our Deputy Principial, Ms Christina Clarke, on the sad passing of her father, John Clarke, in early July. May he rest in peace and may his memory be a blessing.

We were also saddened to learn of the sudden passing of our past pupil Tameem Chaal in early August. Our thoughts and prayers are with Tameem's family and friends at this time.

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## Induction Week 2022

The College reopens on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August for First Year Students with the first of two Induction Days.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August**      **First Year Induction**

9.00a.m. - 11.30a.m.

Classes: Binchy, Blackmore, Buckley & Corless

12.30p.m. - 3.00p.m.

Classes: Finucane, Guerin, Harrington & Robinson

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**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August**

LC1 & LCA1 Induction

1.30p.m. - 3.30p.m.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August**

Second Year Induction

9.30a.m. - 11.30a.m.

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**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August**

Third Year Induction

9.30a.m. - 11.30a.m.

LC2 & LCA 2 Induction

10.30a.m. - 12.30a.m.

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August**

First Year Induction

9.30a.m. - 11.30a.m.

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August**

Transition Year

9.00a.m - 12.30p.m.

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**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September - Classes commence for all students.**

## Help with the cost of school expenses

You may get some help with the cost of your child going to school. The main schemes are the Back-to-School Clothing and Footwear Allowance. You may also get help with exam fees, school transport fees and assistive technology depending on your situation.

### Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance

The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance helps meet the costs of uniforms and footwear for students going to school.

To get the Back-to-School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, you must be getting certain social welfare payments or taking part in certain education and training, or employment schemes and your total household income must be below a certain amount.



### School Books

Each year the College is allocated a Book Grant from The Department of Education & Skills. The Grant is provided to support students from low-income families and families experiencing financial hardship. If you wish to avail of this grant, you should email the Principal, John Cronin, in strict confidence: [johncronin@castleknockcc.ie](mailto:johncronin@castleknockcc.ie).

### Exam Fees

Students whose parent or guardian have a medical card do not have to pay the examination fees for Junior or Leaving Certificate (normally requested in February each year). Details of the medical card are put on the fee payment form and the parent then sends the form back to the school.

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## Communicating with Parents

The College will be hosting a series of online meetings with parents in the coming week. These meetings will be hosted on the MS Teams Platform.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00p.m.- Meeting with Parents of Sixth Years & LCA2 Students

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00p.m. - Meeting with Parents of First Years 2022

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00p.m.- Meeting with Parents of Third Years 2022

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## Board of Management Update

The College's Board of Management meet on seven/eight occasions throughout the course of the academic year. The first meeting will take place on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**. This meeting will be an opportunity to finalise its targets and goals for the new year. The Board will also review the College's Admissions Policy for the 2023-24 academic year. Parents will be provided with an opportunity to review the Admissions Policy in advance of the Board's final ratification.

We also take this opportunity to welcome the appointment of the **Rev Colin McConaghie** as the Church of Ireland nominee to the Board and replaces Cannon Paul Houston who has recently retired. Colin was appointed as the new Rector of the grouped parish of Castleknock and Mulhuddart with Clonsilla in May of this year. We extend our thanks and appreciation to Canon Paul Houston for his service to the Board over the last decade.

Please note that the Parents Representative on the Board of Management, **Mr Brian McCann**, will be stepping down from the Board having served two terms since September 2015. Nominations for a replacement will be sought by the Parents Association in the coming weeks and in advance of their AGM. We thank Brian for his commitment and years of service to the College.

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### Maintaining Uniform Standards.

Over the last two years the College faced many challenges as it coped to manage the Covid 19 pandemic. Regrettably over the last few months of the last term there was an increase in students who were not fully compliant with the College's Uniform Policy. The Management of the College showed leniency in many cases due to the Covid 19 pandemic. However, the Management of the College will not tolerate a similar lack of compliance in the new academic year. It is imperative that all students honour the College's Uniform Policy. We remind students on a regular basis that they make a major statement about their commitment to the College by the manner in which they wear their uniform.

**Footwear** - what is acceptable and what is not acceptable? The College policy is that students may wear black shoes (including Dubs). The wearing of Runners/Vans is not acceptable. We are now appealing to all parents to support us in regard to this matter.

**PE Uniform** - The College policy states clearly that only the official school PE tracksuit must be worn for PE Classes & extracurricular activities. Senior students, in particular, have not been fully compliant in relation to the wearing of the school hoodie and tracksuit bottoms.

**Hoodies** - From the start of the new year students are not allowed to wear the school hoodies instead of the school jumper or jacket.

**Outdoor Jackets** - Students are not permitted to wear non-uniform outdoor jackets and must wear the official school outdoor jackets available from Grants.

## Allergy Awareness

We would like to remind all members of the school community of our allergy awareness procedures. Nuts or products containing nuts should not be consumed in the College and should not be brought onto the premises. We thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

## Promoting Wellbeing

Promoting Wellbeing, among our College community is a priority to ensure a successful return to school for our students and staff as we continue to manage the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. It has impacted on everyone's wellbeing at different times and in different ways. Our young people are adapting well and will emerge more resilient, stronger and having learned new skills.

We will continue to educate, share information, and promote the Junior Cycle Key Skills – Managing Myself, Staying Active and Staying Connected – to help our students manage themselves through this period of change.

Young people can, with family and school support, proactively preserve their own wellbeing by getting enough sleep, establishing routines, eating healthily, getting physical exercise, taking time to connect with friends and taking time to engage in activities.

**Connect:** Make time to connect with people, family and friends, at home and in school. By staying connected and nurturing these relationships, we feel happier, more secure which gives us a better sense of purpose.

**Be Active:** Look for ways to be active everyday – go for a walk or a run! Being physically active can improve our mental health and wellbeing. Take Notice! Be curious! Pay attention to the present moment – to your thoughts, feelings and the world around you.

**Keep Learning:** Try something new! Setting a new challenge or learning a new skill will increase confidence which can improve mental health and wellbeing.

**Volunteer your Time:** Being linked to the wider community can be incredibly rewarding and create connectedness with people around you



## Leaving Certificate 2022

The 2022 Leaving Certificate Results will be published on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, and we extend our best wishes to all our Leaving Certificate & Leaving Certificate Applied Students.

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## Health & Safety Parking at front of the school

We are reminding all parents not to park on the school grounds or on the slip road at the entrance to the College. As more students intend to cycle to the College in the coming weeks, it is imperative that they are given every opportunity to cycle to and from school safely. Parents whose children have a medical condition are permitted to enter the College grounds.

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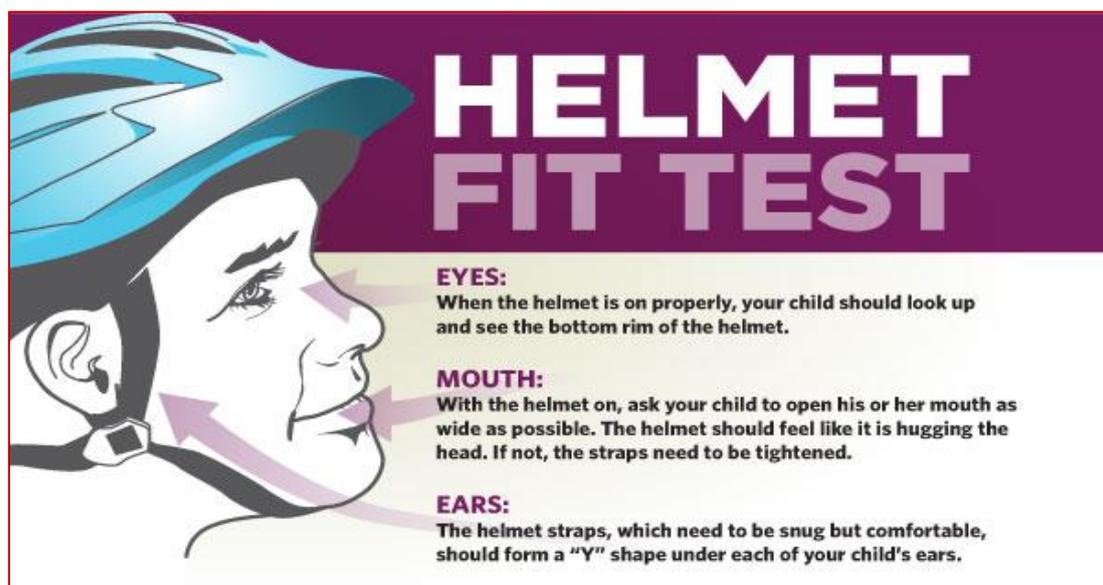
## Foreign Language Assistants

Following our application to the Department of Education & Skills for Foreign Language Assistants, we received the great news in June that our application was successful, and we will welcome two Language Assistants, one from France and one from Spain on 1<sup>st</sup> October! The Language Departments in the College are delighted to have native speakers to assist with the oral component and both assistants will be a tremendous resource to students and staff.

The assistants will be seeking accommodation in the area, and we all know how difficult it is in the current climate. We are putting out an appeal if any family in the locality feels they could provide accommodation for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 - May 2023, please contact the College on (01) 8221626 or by email [admin@castleknockcc.ie](mailto:admin@castleknockcc.ie)

## Cycling to School – Wear a Helmet

Can we once again make a special appeal to all students cycling to school to wear a helmet.



## Summary Calendar – Academic Year 2022-2023

### First Term

Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September at 7.00p.m.	Meeting with Parents of Sixth Years & LCA2
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September at 7.00p.m.	Meeting with Parents of First Years 2022
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> September at 7.00p.m.	Meeting with Parents of Third Years 2022
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2.30p.m.	College Open Day – First Year Students 2023
College Closed Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Junior Cycle Planning Day DES
College Closed Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	

**Midterm Break Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (incl.)**

College Closed Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	
College Closed Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Junior Cycle Staff Training Day DES
First Term Ends Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	

**Christmas Holidays Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 – Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (incl.)**

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### Second Term

College re-opens Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	
Mock Exams Commence on Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 (Provisional)	
College Closed Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	

**Midterm Break Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (incl.) College Closed**

Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 – St. Patrick's Day	
Second Term Ends Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023	

**Easter Holidays Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (incl.)**

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### Third Term

College re-opens Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2023	
Bank Holiday College Closed Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> & Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2023	
Third Term Ends Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023	
State Examinations Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	

