



## Parents' Newsletter January 2020

**Reports:** Reports will be available to view on VS Ware, from Friday December 20<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**Junior Cycle Training:** The Department of Education has requested that the College host a cluster day for Junior Cycle Training for teachers on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January. The College will be closed for students on that day.

### Key Dates for January

- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January: Second Year Information Evening on Junior Cycle, 7.30 p.m.
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January: Second Year Parent Teacher Meeting
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January: LC1 Information Evening, 7.30 p.m. -9.30 p.m.
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January: First Year 2020 Options Evening, 7.30p.m -9.30 p.m.
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January: Second Year Parent Teacher Meeting
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January: Senior Cycle Options Evening. 7.30p.m -9.30 p.m.

**Health and Safety:** To maintain the safety of cyclists and pedestrians entering and leaving the College we ask parents & guardians not to drive onto the College grounds or drop students at the College gate. Unfortunately, there have been two accidents this year, one involving a cyclist who was knocked from his bike in the College Car Park, the other involving a cyclist using the roundabout at the entrance to the College. We also take this opportunity to ask all students who cycle to school to wear helmets and high visibility vests.

**Uniform:** We appeal to all parents & guardians to ensure that your sons & daughters comply with College regulations. Please contact the College should there be any issue regarding uniform, punctuality and attendance. We especially urge you to ensure that your sons & daughters wear the uniform jacket and comply with rules on jewellery and make-up. Many thanks for your continued support as we strive to maintain excellent standards in these matters.

**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 of 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.

**Entrance Scholarship Awards:** We congratulate the following past pupils (LC2 2019) who have been awarded entrance scholarships to university: Niamh Murtagh (DCU), Dimitrios Gkiokas (TCD), Aishling Mohan (UCD), Negar Wassiee (UCD).

**State Exam Results and Awards:** We would like to congratulate all involved with the Junior Cert Class of 2019 on the excellent results received in the State Examinations. We acknowledged publicly the success of our students at our Annual Awards Evening in November. The Leaving Certificate gold medal winners were Dimitrios Gkiokas & Aisling Mohan and the Junior Certificate winner was Alison Egan.

**Every School Day Counts Initiative:** In November the College participated in TUSLA Educational Welfare Services national attendance awareness campaign, 'Everyday Counts'. The campaign aims to highlight the importance of school attendance and how it links directly to positive educational outcomes.

**Sports News:** Our students have shown outstanding commitment and enthusiasm through their representation of the College in a variety of sports including Camogie, Football, Hurling, Basketball, Cross Country Running and Orienteering. We are very grateful to those parents who have assisted in the organisation of sporting events and look forward to your continued involvement.

**Young Scientist:** We wish Alison Egan & Caoimhe Harrington of Transition Year the best of luck as they prepare to compete in the BT Young Scientist 2020 (8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> January) in the R.D.S.

### **Learning Beyond the Classroom**

Your sons and daughters have been very busy participating in a range of activities and experiences beyond the classroom. Just some of the events that have taken place this term.

- Wellbeing Week
- Numeracy Week
- College Awareness Week
- First Year Friendship Days
- Ecumenical Carol Service
- Sports Hour
- LCA Concert
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Rough Sleepers Initiative for Fr Peter McVerry
- 5<sup>th</sup> Year Initiative for the Simon Community
- The Volunteering for All Award Survey
- Couch to 5k Training on Wednesdays
- The Careers Fair
- Mock Interviews
- First Year Soccer Tournament
- Student Council

The extra-curricular timetable can be accessed through our website.

**Dublin & Dunlaoghaire ETB Festival of Music:** Next year's Festival takes place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020. We are delighted that our Choir and First Year Student, Maria Nasypanaya will represent the College.

**Wellread Award:** Representatives from The Literacy Committee and Student Lit Club travelled to Athlone on 21<sup>st</sup> November to accept the Wellread Award on behalf of the College. The Wellread Award is presented to schools who have established an ethos of reading across the school community.

**Kenya 2020:** The group of T.Y. students and teachers who will be travelling to Kenya over Easter in 2020 have run several very successful fundraising events over the past term. They have, so far, raised over €12,000 towards building a school in Kenya. We wish them every success in reaching their target of €20,000.

**Graduate Online Civic Awareness Competition:** We congratulate Alison Egan (Rang Mallory) who has won a four-day trip to Strasburg. The trip, which will take place in 2020 will include a full day at the European Parliament where Alison will have the opportunity to take part in the Euroscola Youth Parliament.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> January at 8.00 p.m. in Room 52. All parents are welcome to attend. The Parents are currently looking for a new chairperson. Any parent interested in this position should contact the Parents Association or John Cronin.

The Parents Association Spring Talk will take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The Guest Speaker is Wayne Denner who will speak on the topic of *Growing up in a Digital World*. Wayne Denner has spent over 21 years in the digital space using social media, smart phone tech and the internet to his advantage. He speaks to over 50,000 students and their parents every year. Wayne shares his stories and tips - motivating audiences all over the world to protect themselves online, take control of technology and grab the opportunities being connected can give us!

On behalf of the Board of Management and staff, we extend best wishes for New Year 2020 to all families.

John Cronin - Principal

Carmel O'Neill, Mairéad O'Halloran & Christina Clarke - Deputy Principals.