



Parents' Update

Monday 2nd November

Dear Parents(s)/Guardian(s),

I write to you as we commence the second part of our first term and to update you on a number of matters.

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.

Update on Hand Sanitisers

In light of recent coverage in the media relating to the supply of sanitiser products to schools I can assure parents that all sanitiser products used in the College meet the required regulations. I would still urge all students to bring their own hand sanitisers & wipes.

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 VSWare.
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.

Keeping Warm in a time of Covid!

One of the many consequences of Covid 19 in schools is that we are required to keep the school well ventilated throughout the course of the day and this requires us to leave classroom windows and doors open. As we move into the winter months, we are advising parents to ensure that their daughter/sons are warmly dressed. The best medical advice is for students to wear warm layers. They will also be permitted to wear scarves (nothing that will draw too much attention!) & their school coats. However, students are not permitted to wear hoodies/outdoor jackets that are not part of the school uniform.

Over the midterm break we installed coat racks in all classrooms.

The heating system is turned on at 7.00a.m. each morning until 9.00a.m. and again at 12.00p.m. until 1.30p.m.

House Exams - 27th November to 4th December

House exams will commence on Friday 27th November and conclude on Friday 4th December. Students will be issued with their timetables in the coming weeks and a copy will also be posted on their MS Teams account.

Results will be available to view on VS Ware before the Christmas break.

DATs Testing for Third Years.

The Guidance Department will host the DATs (Differential Aptitude Test) on Friday the 27th November in advance of the house exams.

CAO Information Evening for Parents of LC2 Students

The Guidance Department will host a CAO evening for the parents of LC2 students on *Monday 9th November at 7.00p.m.* This meeting will be hosted through the students MS Teams account and an invitation will be posted in the coming days. The meeting will focus on the CAO process for students sitting the Leaving Certificate in 2021 and will also focus on the *Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)* & *The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR) Scheme*

Meeting for Parents of First Years.

The College will host an information evening for parents of First Years on *Tuesday 10th November at 7.00p.m.* This meeting will be hosted through the students MS Teams account and an invitation will be posted in the coming days.

This meeting will provide parents with an update on how first year students are settling in and how you can continue to support them as they make the transition from Primary to Secondary School. We will also focus on the procedures for the upcoming house exams which will commence on Friday 27th November.

Parents Association AGM

The Parents Association will host its annual AGM on Tuesday 3rd November at 8.00p.m. The Parents Association have issued invitations through the Zoom Platform. We would encourage as many families to support the great work of the Parents Association.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020

We were delighted to host an online graduation for the class of 2020 on Thursday 22nd October. We wish to extend a sincere thanks to the many Parents Association volunteers who assisted with the distribution of the Graduation Bags to the Class of 2020.

The evening was an opportunity to acknowledge the wonderful contribution that the Class of 2020 had made to the College over the last six years. We also presented a number of very special awards and we once again congratulate the recipients:

- Graduating Sports Star of the Year Female - Sophie Brown
- Graduating Sports Star of the Year Male - Conor Chawke

- Graduating Student of the Year Female - Niamh Underwood
- Graduating Student of the Year Male - Kevin Farnan

- Academic Gold Medal 2020 – Ciara Hogan

We wish every success to the class of 2020 and we know that in the years to come they will true to the theme of their graduation *“Don't be afraid to shine, the world needs your light”*

Leaving Certificate Examinations 2021

We extend our very best wishes to the students who have entered for the 2020 Leaving Certificate Examinations which will be hosted between Monday 16th November to Friday 11th December.

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 the coming weeks.

I would also remind parents that over the winter months it is important that all bikes have the appropriate lighting.

I would also like to congratulate our first year students who have set the standard when it comes to wearing helmets. I 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 I 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!

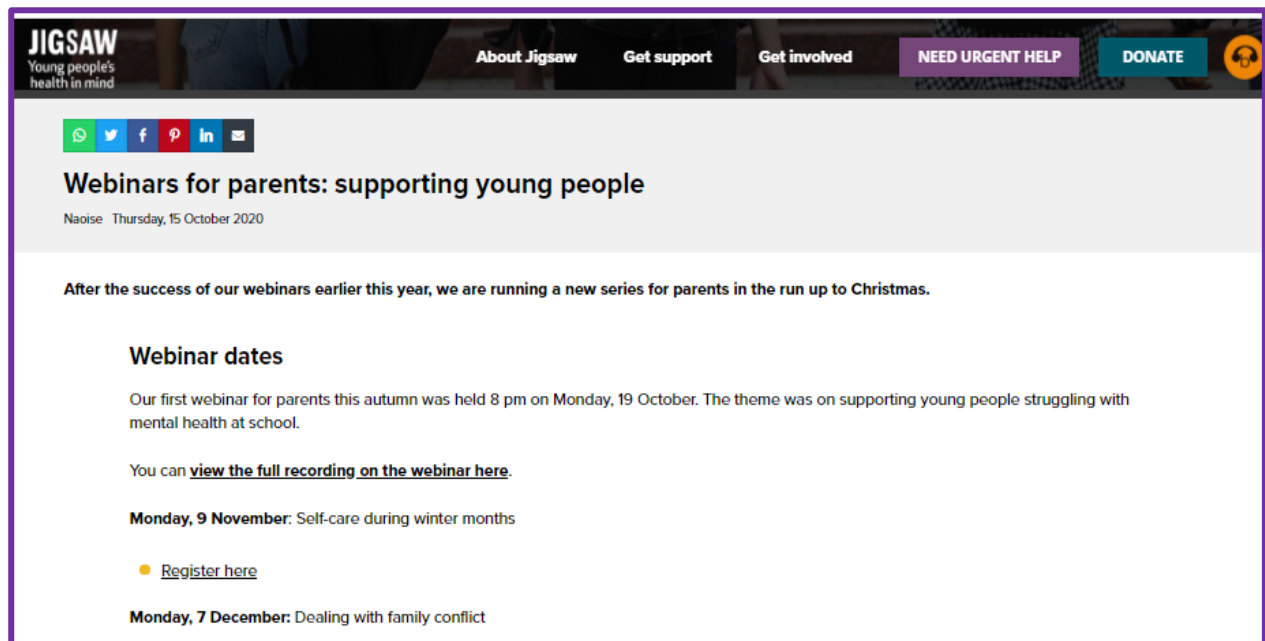
School Calendar

As per the school calendar on the College website the College will be closed on Monday 7th December.

Jigsaw Dublin 15

Parents may be interested in the following webinars which are being hosted by Jigsaw Dublin 15

<https://jigsaw.ie/webinars-for-parents-supporting-young-people/>



The screenshot shows the Jigsaw website header with the logo 'JIGSAW Young people's health in mind' and navigation links: 'About Jigsaw', 'Get support', 'Get involved', 'NEED URGENT HELP', and 'DONATE'. Below the header is a social media sharing bar with icons for WhatsApp, Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, LinkedIn, and Email. The main content area is titled 'Webinars for parents: supporting young people' and includes the text: 'After the success of our webinars earlier this year, we are running a new series for parents in the run up to Christmas.' Under the heading 'Webinar dates', it states: 'Our first webinar for parents this autumn was held 8 pm on Monday, 19 October. The theme was on supporting young people struggling with mental health at school. You can [view the full recording on the webinar here.](#)' It then lists two upcoming webinars: 'Monday, 9 November: Self-care during winter months' with a 'Register here' link, and 'Monday, 7 December: Dealing with family conflict'.

Key Dates for November - December 2020

November

- Monday 2nd November College reopens
- Monday 2nd November (3.00p.m.) Closing date for Applications to First Year 2021
- Tuesday 3rd November (8.00pm.) AGM Parents Association (Zoom Meeting)
- Monday 9th November (7.00p.m.) CAO Meeting for LC2 Parents (MS Teams Meeting)
- Tuesday 10th November (7.00p.m.) First Year Information Evening (MS Teams Meeting)
- Friday 27th November Third Year DATs
- Friday 27th November House Exams Commence

December

- Friday 4th December Final day of House Examinations
- Monday 7th December College Closed
- Tuesday 22nd December (12.20p.m.) College Closes for First Term

January 2021

- Wednesday 6th January 2021 College reopens for second term.

