

Christmas Newsletter - December 2021



“A graduate from CCC is recognised as a young person who possesses a strong moral purpose and holds the courage of their convictions. Graduates will be equipped with the life skills to understand their own well-being so that they can manage their emotional, mental, spiritual and physical needs.”

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

As we approach the Christmas holidays at the end of a very busy first term, we want to take this opportunity to congratulate your sons and daughters on successfully navigating their way through the term in what continue to be uncertain and challenging times. We would also like to update you on developments in the College over the course of this term and to advise you of upcoming events in the term to come.

Christmas Reports

Please log on to your VS Ware Account to Access your daughter/son’s Christmas Assessment Report. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate your sons and daughters on their performance in these exams and encourage them to take to sometime over the Christmas break to review the comments and feedback from their teachers. Particularly those students who did not perform as well as they had hoped in these exams. We are aware that there have been some technical issues with VS Ware in relation to the “download feature” and the recording of Junior Cycle CBAs. These matters will be addressed in the near future. Please note that the Reports and comments can only be accessed through the Parents VS Ware Account & not the students.

Chaplaincy Team (Chantelle Barrett)

This term has seen the very welcome return to the weekly meetings of the Chaplaincy team. They organised events and retreats. In September the TY group took part in an enriching and spiritual retreat in Glendalough with Ms. Doyle

On a beautiful crisp November morning we gathered in our Rainbow Garden for our Remembrance service. It was a moment of pause to remember and pay tribute to those who have passed from this world in the last year. We had prayers and messages from each of the world Religions and those of no faith. The music of the cello, guitar along with two solo pieces really brought a special reverence to the morning. We thank Fr Dan Joe who blessed the garden and contributed greatly to ceremony.

For the month of December, the Chaplaincy team invited the College community to partake in our Acts of Kindness challenge. Mr. Cronin announced the acts each day on the intercom.

The team is busy planning for 2022 and have Interfaith activities and Friendship Days planned for First Years to kick off the New Year. We wish you all happy and safe Christmas. May the blessings be many and worries few in your homes.

An old Irish Blessing
The light of the Christmas star to you.
The warmth of home and hearth to you.
The cheer and goodwill of friends to you.
The hope of a child-like heart to you.
The joy of a thousand angels to you.
The love of the Son and God's peace to you.

One Good School – Jigsaw

In recent years, there has been growing awareness of the importance of promoting and supporting our mental health and wellbeing. This is particularly important in schools as they are considered critical settings for contributing to student health and wellbeing.

Here in the College, we have been chosen as a participating school in the “One Good School” programme. Over a two-year period, the initiative provides a broad range of activities for all those in the whole school community including leadership teams, teachers, parents and students and will be delivered through interactive workshops, webinars, peer education etc.

One Good School™ offers three levels of award at the end of a two-year cycle to acknowledge the efforts and commitments that all members of the school community have demonstrated towards promoting and supporting youth mental health and wellbeing. We will give further updates in the Spring Term.

Transition Year News

It has thankfully been quite a busy term for our TY students since they arrived back to school at the end of August! They participated in retreats in Glendalough in September, followed by a day trip to Carlingford at the beginning of October. A number of students engaged in various Early University Entrance courses in DCU during the first term also. Fortunately, many of our TYs were able to secure November work experience placements (both on-site and online) and we’re hoping for more of the same in February. Many of our TYs are completing the Gaisce Bronze Award this year – they are developing new skills, have taken up a new sport and are making various contributions within the local community as part of this prestigious awards scheme.

- Ms Eileen Kelly has our Outdoor Education Programme back up and running this year – to date, all five tutor groups have been hill walking in Cruagh Woods near the Hellfire Club, as well as rock climbing in Awesome Walls, with skiing and canoeing planned for the Spring and Summer terms.
- Students who engaged in Ms Cotter’s ‘A Taste of History’ module had trips to Croke Park as part of their study of the GAA and to 14 Henrietta St. – one of the oldest Georgian houses on the first Georgian street built in Dublin. The students learned how this massive mansion became a slum tenement by the early 20th century. The tour gave the students a fascinating insight into the poverty experienced by Dubliners in the not so distant past. More exciting

things to come in the New Year for History students with an Archaeology module commencing in January.

- Mr Ó' Riada's European Studies students have been exploring Ireland within the context of 21st Century Europe, concluding from their research that the Ireland of today is a progressive, creative, and pioneering society within contemporary Europe and that the Irish psyche and place of Ireland in Europe today have both been shaped by our complex history, as well as our rich cultural heritage.
- Ms O'Loughlin and Ms Heinen's Japanese classes have looked at various aspects of Japanese culture, they've learned about origami and have even had chopstick etiquette lessons!
- Ms Delaney's classes (Ranganna Crean, Scott and all of the students in her Public Speaking class) did a fabulous job in preparing the College for Stand Up Awareness Week, where our focus was on showing solidarity with LGBTQI+ students and colleagues.
- Ms Doyle's Development Education classes are producing a monthly newspaper which focuses on UN sustainable development goals and globalisation.
- Ms McCarthy's Young Social Innovators (YSI) group have been engaged in a social project, which aims to challenge stereotypes and judgemental attitudes towards people who are viewed as 'different' within society. The students have conducted social experiments within the school community. They've pushed social boundaries and continue to work towards this goal with their creativity, innovation, and courage.
- CanSat: A selection of TY students along with some Computer Science students from LCI are competing in the CanSat regional competition, which allows students to explore (through an extra-curricular club) the STEM skills needed to control and operate a model satellite. If any other TY students would be interested in the project, please speak with Ms. Doherty or Mr Harper and they would be delighted to welcome new faces to the Monday lunchtime club.
- Ms Staunton and Ms Conlon's TY Music classes have also been busy during the past term. The students completed a Music module, learned how to play the ukulele, and even performed a couple of Christmas songs to get themselves into the festive spirit! It was a great achievement - well done to all involved.

#ThinkLanguages

TY students in CCC along with Transition year students right across the country participated in the #ThinkLanguages run by Languages Connect. Languages Connect aims to highlight the personal, social, professional and economic benefits of language learning. Students taking part in #ThinkLanguages are encouraged to think about the global work opportunities, as well as the wider circle of friends and the richer life experiences that foreign language skills can offer them. They are also encouraged to appreciate diversity of languages spoken both globally and locally within their own school and community.

On November 22nd, TY students immersed themselves in languages and cultures from across the globe by participating in workshops. Everything from Spanish and Flamenco Dancing, Portuguese and Capoeira, Chinese Art and Russian and Ballet and Irish Sign Languages were experienced by the students on the day. TY students thoroughly enjoyed the day and we look forward to celebrating the event next year!

Survey on Online Parent Teacher Meetings

Many thanks to those parents/guardians who completed our online survey on our recent online Parent Teacher Meetings. The results of the survey were largely very positive of this new initiative. We had 152 responses with 70% of respondents saying they would prefer to attend online Parent Teacher Meetings in future.

Leaving Cert Applied News

Year 1 Rang Becket

The students successfully ran the 1st Year Soccer Tournament on Wednesday 13th October. They are in the process of completing the Task Booklet that is required for this component of the Programme. They will present for interview for this on the week beginning 31st January 2022 (date to be confirmed). All Session 1 Key Assignments are due in on Friday 28th January 2022.

Year 2 Rang Flynn

The students are in the process of completing the Task Booklets for the Practical Achievement Task and The I.C.T. Task. They will present for interview for these on the week beginning 31st January 2022 (dates to be confirmed).

- All Session 3 Key Assignments are due in on Friday 28th January 2022
- Mock Exams will take place on the week beginning 14th February 2022

Work Experience

A reminder that the students in both L.C.A. Year 1 and Year 2 will be on Work Experience as follows:

- Week 1 Monday 28th February ---- Friday 4th March
 - Week 2 Monday 7th March ----Friday 11th March
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LCVP Mock Interviews

A group of parents led by Lorraine Hagerty, interviewed LCVP students in their chosen career area. This was carried out online on TEAMS. This gave students a great insight into the world of work. The feedback on the event was excellent. Students were given invaluable feedback on their CV and interview skills. We wish our thanks to the Parents Association for their continued support and commitment to this initiative.

Covid 19 Inspection

The College underwent a Department of Education Covid19 Inspection on Thursday 9th December. The feedback from the Inspector Ann Daly was very affirming and it recognised the huge efforts that all staff and students in the College are playing in the fight against Covid19.

Special thanks to the College Lead Worker Representatives Sue Ennis, Kelly McGrath, Eileen Kelly & Barbara Larkin. The inspector was very impressed with their work and their commitment to their colleagues' health & safety.

The inspector was also fulsome in her praise of our Ancillary Team and had the opportunity to thank James, Liam & Irene.

Stand Up Awareness Week

This year CCC participated in Stand Up week for the first time. Stand Up Awareness Week, an annual campaign run by Belong To Youth Services. It is a time when we show solidarity with LGBTQI+ young people and colleagues.

Ms Delaney organised lessons on LGBTQI+ awareness as well as other interactive activities around the school. With the help of Ms Brady, a poster competition was also held in the college. Three pupils were awarded for their artistic ability and their posters will now hang in the college's new Wellbeing room. We at CCC hope to make this an annual occasion and fly the LGBTQI+ flag with pride each year.



The Drama Club

The Drama Club is designed to introduce key skills and techniques, while simultaneously developing communication and collaborative skills for both Junior and Senior Cycle students. Drama helps pupils to improve peer relationships, confidence and resilience and students from all year groups are given the opportunity to perform and interpret a script for fun. The Drama Club takes place in the Old Canteen every Monday during lunchtime. Please see Ms. Bermingham for more details.

Extra-Curricular News

We were delighted to see the extracurricular programme recommence in September and while we have not been able to roll out our full programme of events we have seen our students represent the College with pride in Gaelic, Hurling, Camogie, Rugby, Athletics, Basketball, Orienteering & Soccer. The highlight of the term was the success of the u19 Girls' Basketball team who were crowned Dublin Champions in December following their victory over St Joseph's of Cluny with a score line of 29 points to 25. The Girls have now qualified for the all-Ireland series in the new year. Congratulations to Abby Myles Kearney & Lucy Quinn who captained the side to victory and to their coaches Ms Sheila Cotter and Ms Aoife Daly.

Congratulations to the U17 Boys Soccer team who achieved two great victories in their three matches they have played this term. Firstly, they beat Castleknock College 3-2 in October in what was a dominant performance, with goals coming from Ryan Sherlock, Luke Hughes and Matthew Coughlan. Unfortunately they then fell to a 2-0 defeat to Coláiste Pobail Setanta in early December in a very competitive match.

However, they showed great resilience to bounce back from that defeat with a win away to Firhouse Community College in the first round of the Leinster Junior Cup. CCC took the lead early with goals from Gerard Crawley and Matthew Coughlan, who then doubled his goal tally midway through the first half in what was a very hard fought 3-2 win. CCC will now play Templeogue in the next round of the Cup in early January."

We were also delighted to learn of Scott Fagan's international success when he won a Silver Medal for Ireland. On Sunday 12th December Scott represented Ireland in the U20 European Cross Country Championships and secured a silver medal. This is an incredible achievement for Scott, a Leaving Certificate student at the College. We wish well for the future.

Adult Education – Night Classes

The Castleknock Community College Spring 2022 Adult Education Programme term will see the introduction of 18 NEW courses bringing our total number of courses to 56. Our recent additions include, DIY Home Maintenance, Interior Design, Indian Cookery, Gardening, Mindfulness & Meditation, CBT and Mindfulness, First Aid, Craft Beer Brewing, Barbering for Beginners, Feltmaking, Performance Analysis in Sport & Japanese. We also have favourites such as Pilates, Yoga, Zumba, Ballroom Dancing, Latin in Line Dancing & Tai Chi along with a host of others.

The Spring 2022 Adult Education Programme will start on the week of the 24th of January 2022. Our brochures will be widely available in the local area after Christmas with over 10,000 delivered door to door each. Copies of our brochure are also freely available in the school office and can be downloaded from the adult education section of the school website castleknockcc.ie

Online Booking paying by debit/credit card is by far the most convenient and hassle-free way to enrol. This can also be done through the Adult Education section of the Castleknock Community College website. You can enrol in person at one of our Enrolment Nights or by post by availing of our simple and convenient Postal Enrolment facility detailed on the back of our brochures each term. If you wish to enrol in person, you can do so on Monday 17th Jan 2022 from 7.30pm-8.30pm.

If you have any queries concerning Adult Education, please feel free to contact us at any time. You can contact Conor Barry the Director of Adult Education directly on (01) 8129346 or by e-mail at nightclasses@castleknockcc.ie

You can follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook by search, using the @NightClassesCCC handle

Finally, to all our Parents and Night class students, we wish you a very happy, peaceful and safe time over the holidays and new year and look forward to seeing some new faces in January 2022.

Christmas Merit Awards

Merit Award Assemblies for all Year Groups while held online via Teams during the last week of term. These Merit Award Assemblies are an important occasion for the College to recognise and affirm those students who embody the College's core values of courtesy, respect and responsibility in their day to day encounters with their teachers and peers. We are delighted to salute these students and pass on our congratulations to them and their families. The list of Merit Award winners Christmas 2021:

First Year		
Class	Male	Female
Ardagh	Niall Shanley	Aoibheann Reilly
Broighter	Patrick Scully	Aisling Digan
Cathach	Alan Silin	Molly Bourke
Durrow	Arann Redfern	Freya Uludag
Kells	Conor Furlong	Ailbhe Morgan
Lismore	Alexander Pryma	Kate Donohoe
Newgrange	Ryan Kearney	Laura Dromey
Tara	Darragh Cullinan	Maya Asad
Second Year		
Class	Male	Female
Cormac	Bobby Whelan	Aisling O'Sullivan
Daire	Samuel McMahon	Anfaal Ather
Deirdre	Aaron Carter	Ruby Murray
Ferdia	Duane Moss	Lily Brady
Fergus	David Cassidy	Roisin O'Connor
Meabh	Daniel Brady	Caoimhe Feeney
Neasa	Jack McLaughlin	Siobhan Flynn
Third Year		
Class	Male	Female
Achill	Will Mealia	Jules Coyne
Blasket	Joshua O' Neill	Ekaterina Andreeva
Clare	Emmet Rogers	Aoife Sheridan

Rathlin	Dara Lynott	Amelia Higgins
Sherkin	Eoghan Matthews	Ava Carmody
Tory	Ben Fitzsimons Grey	Lily Murray
Valentia	Oisin Foy Long	Ruby Gear
TY		
Class	Male	Female
Crean	Fintan Dooley	Jennifer Grogan
Forde	Robert Lynch	Aisling McCabe
Irvine	Fred Mutawe	Ellen Woods
Mallory	Sam Kelly	Vanessa Gillespie
Scott	Jake Hayes	Rachel Hoey
LC1		
Class	Male	Female
Beckett	Karl Doyle	Rachel Donohoe
Behan	Sean Greally	Sadaf Azizi
Burke	Fiachra Barry	Niamh Ryan
Friel	Evan Rogers	Katie Sheerin
Keane	Sahel Azizi	Abeeha Ijaz
Murphy	Desmond Ucheaguwa	Niamh Hillick
Shaw	Conor Gurhy	Zoe Hill
Synge	Aidan Thom	Ishna Tripathi
LC2		
Class	Male	Female
Bowler	Gavin McCormack	Tara Coffey
Casey	Neil Hogan	Aisling Sheridan
Doherty	Matthew Coughlan	Holly Morrissey
Duffy	Aaron Doyle	Megan Cheevers
Flynn	Ben Farrell	Afra Nsole Belose
Kerr	Abdus Bhadmus	Aisling Kirwan
Quinn	Malik Shushan	Aideen Butler
Ryan	John Oguntuase	Alana Malone
	Killian Maxwell	Hazel Aigbonkonkon
	Sean McMahon	Wendy Khumalo

Dates for Your Diary

- 23rd December – 5th January: Christmas Holidays
 - 6th January: School reopens
 - 11th January: Second Year Group 1 Parent Teacher Meeting
 - 18th January: Second Year Group 2 Parent Teacher Meeting
 - 25th January: JCT Cluster Day (College closed)
 - 7th – 18th February: Mock Exams for Third & LC2 Students
 - 21st – 25th February: Mid-Term Break
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‘Wishing our all staff, students and their families a very safe, peaceful and Happy Christmas and every good wish for 2022’

