



August Newsletter 2024

Dear Parents(s)/Guardian(s),

As we prepare to welcome back our students and staff for the new academic year, we do so in the knowledge that in a few months' time we will be celebrating our thirtieth anniversary in the community of Dublin 15. While the College has established a reputation within the community it also strives each year to honour the core values that are the cornerstones of all we do at CCC.

In this Newsletter we would like to take this opportunity to update you on a number of matters. In particular we wish to draw all parents attention to the College's revised Code of Behaviour which provides clear guidance on the College's rules relating to Mobile Phones.

Induction Week August 2024

The College reopens on Thursday 22nd August for Induction Days as outlined below:

Thursday 22nd August First Year Induction 1.30p.m. - 3.30p.m.

Friday 23rd August Sixth Year & LCA 2 Induction 9.30a.m. - 11.30a.m.
Third Year Induction 10.30a.m. - 12.30p.m.

Monday 26th August Fifth Year & LCA 1 Induction 9.30a.m. - 11.30a.m.
Second Year & LCA 1 Year Induction 10.30a.m. - 12.30p.m.

Tuesday 27th August Transition Year Induction 9.30a.m. - 11.30a.m.

Wednesday 28th August **Classes commence for all students.**

Communicating with Parents

The College will be hosting a series of online meetings with parents in the coming weeks. Our On-line meetings will be hosted on MS Teams Live Events which will be accessible through the College website.

Monday 9th September at 7.00p.m.- Meeting with Parents of Sixth Years & LCA2 Students.

Tuesday 17th September at 7.00p.m. - Meeting with Parents of First Years 2024.

Monday 23rd September at 7.00p.m.- Meeting with Parents of Third Years 2024.

Mobile Phones

From the start of the new academic year all students will be prohibited from using their mobile phones during school time. The College will take a zero-tolerance approach to mobile phones and students will be advised that if they are found using their mobile phone it will be confiscated. The College's revised Behaviour Policy provides clear guidelines for students and the use of mobile phones. This policy is available to read by clicking on the link below:

[2024-2027 CCC Code of Behaviour May 2024.doc](#)



There are many reasons why we as a community need to create a safe space where students can learn to invest in relationships. From academic performance to mental and physical health, here are several harmful effects of mobile phones that students and parents should be aware of:

Academic Distraction: Perhaps the most evident detrimental effect of mobile phones on students is academic distraction. Constant notifications, social media updates, and the allure of online entertainment can disrupt concentration during study sessions, leading to decreased productivity and lower academic performance.

Sleep Disruption: The blue light emitted by mobile phone screens can interfere with the body's natural sleep-wake cycle, leading to difficulty falling asleep and poor sleep quality. Excessive use of mobile phones before bedtime can disrupt students' sleep patterns, resulting in fatigue, irritability, and difficulty concentrating during the day.

Risk of Addiction: Mobile phones, with their endless array of apps, games, and social media platforms, can be highly addictive, especially for young students. Excessive use of mobile phones can lead to addiction-like behaviours, such as compulsive checking for notifications, withdrawal symptoms when not using the device, and neglect of other activities and responsibilities.

Impaired Social Skills: Excessive reliance on mobile phones for communication can hinder students' development of essential social skills. Spending excessive time on virtual interactions may detract from face-to-face communication opportunities, leading to difficulties building and maintaining real-life relationships.

Decreased Physical Activity: The sedentary nature of mobile phone usage can contribute to declining physical activity levels among students. Spending hours hunched over a screen can lead to poor posture, musculoskeletal issues, and a lack of interest in outdoor activities and exercise.

Negative Impact on Mental Health: Excessive use of mobile phones has been linked to various mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, and loneliness. The pressure to maintain a curated online persona and the constant comparison to others' seemingly perfect lives on social media can take a toll on students' mental well-being.

Reduced Attention Span: The constant influx of information and stimuli from mobile phones can lead to reduced attention spans and difficulty focusing on tasks for extended periods. This can impact students' ability to engage in deep, concentrated learning and critical thinking.

Cyberbullying and Online Harassment: The anonymity and accessibility of mobile phones make them a breeding ground for cyberbullying and online harassment. Students may fall victim to bullying, harassment, or inappropriate behaviour online, leading to emotional distress and adverse psychological effects.

Impact on Academic Integrity: The widespread availability of smartphones with internet access challenges academic integrity. Students may be tempted to cheat during exams or plagiarise assignments using their mobile phones, compromising their academic integrity and ethical standards.

Leaving Certificate 2024

The 2024 Leaving Certificate Results will be published on Friday 23rd August, and we extend our best wishes to all our Leaving Certificate & Leaving Certificate Applied students. Please note that students will be able to access their results through the State Examinations Portal. The Guidance Counsellors will be available in the College from 10.00a.m. – 3.00p.m. on Friday 25th August. They can also be contacted by email.

Parents Association

The Parents Association meet on the first Monday of each month and extend an invitation to all parents to join them for their first meeting on Monday 9th September at 7.30p.m. in Room 10.

In June of this year Tina Gao and a team of parents organised the second-hand uniform sale and raised over €3,000 in aid of Pieta House. The support of Tina and her team is always greatly appreciated. The Parents Association will be planning their AGM for October.

Board of Management Update

The College's Board of Management meets on seven/eight occasions throughout the course of the academic year. The first meeting of the year will take place on **Tuesday 3rd September 2024**. 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 2025-26 academic year. If there are any changes to the selection criteria and/or methods of selection parents will be provided with an opportunity to review the Admissions Policy in advance of the Board's final ratification.

School Book Grant Scheme for Junior Cycle Students

Please be advised the College has been provided with a financial grant to cover the cost of all books and stationery for First, Second & Third Years.

First Year students were issued with most of their books in July & August. They will receive their option books and their modern foreign language books from their subject teachers at the start of

the new term. They will also receive their stationery from their subject teachers at the start of the new term. First Year students have been advised NOT to upload their books onto their devices at home as this task will be completed by their subject teachers during class time.

Second & Third Year students will be issued with their books and stationery by their subject teachers at the start of the new term.

Please note that all books issued to students will be scanned and recorded by the College and students will be required to return the books to the College at the end of the year or on completion of the Junior Cycle Programme.

Help with the cost of school Expenses

School books

Each year the College is allocated a Book Grant from The Department of Education. 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. Please be advised that this Grant only applies to parents of Fourth, Fifth & Sixth Year as the new Book Grant Scheme 2024 will ensure that the costs of all books and stationery for Junior Cycle Students will be covered by the College.*

Exam fees

Students whose parent or guardian have a medical card do not have to pay the examination fees for Junior Cycle 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.

ID Cards: Punctuality

A reminder to all students that it is their responsibility to ensure they have their Student ID Cards with them at all times. Students are reminded that they must record their attendance each morning and afternoon by using their ID Cards to tap-in before 8.50a.m. and 1.15p.m. each day (except for Wednesday when students only have to tap-in in the morning). First Year and TY/ LCI students will have their photographs taken and will be issued with new Student ID cards in early September.



Students who fail to tap-in will be recorded as late and may be placed on Lates Detention. Any student who is late more than twice in a given week will be placed on detention the following Wednesday afternoon from 12.30p.m. – 1.30p.m.

Attendance & Punctuality: VS Ware App

Last year the College successfully launched the VSWare App with parents/guardians. The App sends notifications to parents/guardians to alert them to any unexplained school absences. These alerts are issued in the morning and afternoon (except for Wednesday when only a morning alert will be issued). Parents/guardians can also use the App to provide notes for these absences as well as providing notes for future absences. If they haven't already done so, parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to download the VSWare App between now and the start of the new academic year.

For further information on the VSWare App and push notifications please click on the link below: <https://support.vsware.ie/en/guides-for-parents>.

Lego Club at Castleknock Community College.

The College is planning to establish a Lego Club for students. At this point we are seeking the assistance of all families who may be looking for a new home for their children's Lego. In early September we will be inviting families to donate any "unloved" Lego to the College to support this new initiative.



Maintaining Uniform Standards.



The College takes great pride in its uniform. 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 footwear with black soles. We are 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.

Students wearing or carrying non-uniform items will have them confiscated at the student entrance/tutorial.

Hoodies - From the start of the new year students will not be allowed to wear the school hoodie instead of the school jumper or jacket.

Allergy Awareness

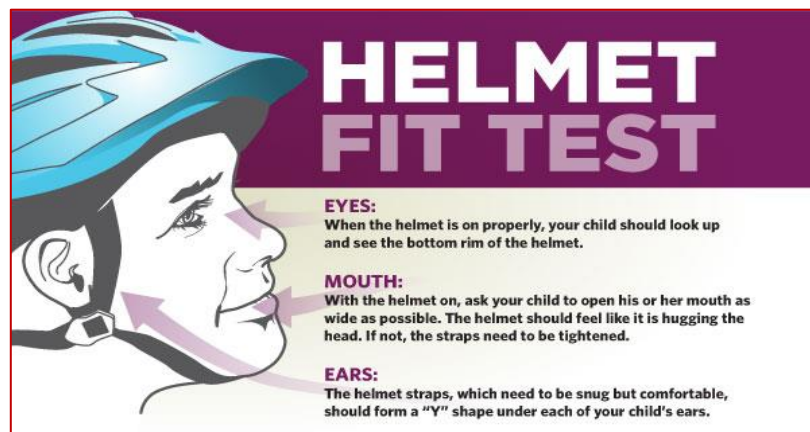
We would like to remind all members of the school community of our allergy awareness procedures. Nuts or products containing nuts should not be consumed in the College and should not be brought onto the premises. We thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

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. Only parents whose children have a medical condition are permitted to enter the College grounds.

Cycling to School – Wear a Helmet

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



New Bike Racks & Service Station

Thanks to the Parents Association, the College has invested in additional Bicycle Racks and a Bicycle Repair Maintenance Centre. Students who cycle to school will now have access to this facility.



Summary Calendar – Academic Year 2024-2025

School Calendar 2024 -2025

First Term

- School Year begins Thursday 22nd August 2024
 - College Closed: Friday 27th September 2024
 - College Closed: Thursday 10th October 2024: Staff Training Day
 - Third Year PT Meetings: 8th & 15th October 2024 (4.15p.m – 6.15p.m)
 - Midterm Break: Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November 2024
 - Sixth Year PT Meeting: 5th November 2024– (4.15 p.m. – 6.15 p.m.)
 - Second Year PT Meeting: 12th November 2024
(Lessons end at 3.45 p.m. - P.T.M starts at 4.15 p.m.)
 - November Examinations: 22nd November – 29th November 2024
 - College Closed: Monday 2nd December. 2024
 - First Term Ends: Friday 20th December 2024
 - Christmas Holidays: Monday 23rd December -Friday 3rd January 2025
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Second Term

- College Reopens Monday 6th January 2025
 - Fifth Year PT Meeting: Tuesday 14th January 2025 (4.15 p.m. – 6.15 p.m.)
 - First Year PT Meeting: Tuesday 21st January 2025
(Lessons end at 3.45 p.m. - P.T.M starts at 4.15 p.m.)
 - College Closed: Thursday 23rd January 2025 –Staff Training Day
 - College Closed: Monday 3rd February 2025 – Public Holiday
 - Mock Examinations: Friday 31st January – Friday 14th February 2025
 - Midterm Break: Monday 17th to Friday 21st February 2025 (incl.)
 - College Closed Monday 17th March & Tuesday 18th March 2025
 - Second Term Ends: Friday 11th April 2025
 - Easter Holidays: Monday 14th April – Friday 25th April 2025 (incl.)
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Third Term

- College Reopens: Monday 28th April 2025
- College Closed: Monday 5th May 2025 (Public Holiday)
- Third Term Ends: Friday 30th May 2025
- Summer Examinations: Thursday 22nd May - 30th May 2025
- State Examinations Commence: Wednesday 4th June 2025

School Musical



The First Ever Castleknock Community College School Musical be performed in the College over three nights from Tuesday 22nd October 2024. Rehearsals will commence on Wednesday 28th August. We look forward to three wonderful evenings of music and unforgettable performances from our talented students.

Accommodation for FLA

For the last number of years, the College has benefited from the Language Assistant Scheme. The purpose of the Language Assistant Scheme is to provide support to teachers in the classroom and to encourage students to view a foreign language as a living language used by millions of people rather than a language learned at school for the purpose of passing an exam.

This year we will be welcoming two language assistants from France and Spain. The assistants will need accommodation for the next academic year and have asked for support with sourcing rooms in the Dublin 15 area. Any member of the College Community with information on accommodation in the area should send details to maireadohalloran@castleknockcc.ie.

School Journals

The school journal is an important resource for all members of the school community. We would appreciate if parents could take time at the start of the school year to read and sign the polices in the journal with their daughters and sons. We ask that parents check journals regularly throughout the year and sign them at the end of each week.



