

COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS

GERRY & TEAM AT THE EDMUND RICE SCHOOLS TRUST WISH TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR GREAT WORK IN PROMOTING EDMUND RICE SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT 2018. WE WISH YOU AND ALL IN YOUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY A PEACEFUL AND RELAXING BREAK OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD AND BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR.

**CELEBRATING
EDMUND RICE SCHOOLS**



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2018

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Bhur gcéad fáilte go dtí nuachtitir na Nollag 2018. I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff and students for all their hard work during the course of the past year and to wish staff, students and parents/guardians a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I would also like to thank the members of the Board of Management, the Parents' Council and the Students' Council for all ongoing efforts for the benefit of all in the school. On behalf of the school community, I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to all in the school community who have been bereaved in the past year. We think particularly of Michelle Whelan and Seán Kinsella, our colleague Mark Power and the Whelan and Kinsella families following the tragic death of Jack (2nd Year Picasso). I would like to thank all the parents for their support to the students and staff school during this difficult time and to acknowledge the help and support of NEPS in the aftermath of the tragedy and in the weeks since. We also think of following who have suffered bereavement in recent weeks: the Palmer family, on the death of Sean, father of Grant (Second Year Bernini); Mr Donal Howlin and his family on the death of Donal's father, Sheamus.

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The school's current Board of Management has just commenced the second year of a three year term. The Board consists of eight members. Four are Trustee representatives; Mr. Gerry Forde (Chairperson), Mr. Jim Hurley, Mr Dara Lynott and Miss Ann Walsh. Two are teachers' representatives; Mr. Sean Hurley and Mrs Ann Barry. Two are parents' representatives; Mrs Joan Crean and Mr. Anthony Roche. It will be reviewing the school's Anti-bullying Policy and Child Protection Policy in early 2019. The school's Admissions Policy will also be reviewed in the context of new legislation governing admissions to schools.

THE PARENTS' COUNCIL

The Parents' Council A.G.M. was held on 9th October 2018. The outgoing officers were all re-elected: Caroline Busher (Chairperson), Paula Fenlon (Secretary), Yvonne Eaves (Treasurer). The Council donated €575 towards the Fifth Year Study Seminars held in September and has purchased a second defibrillator for the school which will be located in the gym.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL 2018-19

The Students' Council is the representative body for all students in the school. The body was elected from the student cohort in September. It meets regularly to discuss school matters.

MERIT SHEET

As part of the school's emphasis on positive affirmation, students gain merits for the various ways they have achieved or contributed to school life. The merit sheets are filling up in many students' journals so parents are asked to keep a check on how their son is progressing and affirm appropriately.

MEITHEAL PROGRAMME

The Meitheal programme has been running very successfully in the second level schools in County Wexford for a considerable time now. The programme identifies and trains school leaders among the student cohort, who in turn act as mentors for the First Year students in each of the schools involved in the programme. This has proven to be very effective in combating bullying in the participating schools and also provides leadership opportunities for our senior students. I would like to thank the students who have volunteered for these leadership and pastoral roles this year and commend them for their work to date. The Meitheal Awards day will take place on Wednesday 16th January 2019. Our 2018-19 Meitheal leaders are as follows: Shane Bergin, Cian Foley, James Crean, Ryan Kavanagh, Fionn Roche, Niall Reck, Paul Lohier, Ryan Healy, Dylan Ffrench Corish, Seán Reck, Dan Hendrick and Eoin Bergin.

CUMANN ÉAMONN RÍS

The Peace and Justice Society is now in its fourth year. It continues to support the vision of Blessed Edmund Rice in the school and in society with a particular emphasis on social justice. The members of the society are linked closely with the SVP conference in the school and fund raise on their behalf.

We are building our links with the EREBB (Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders) organisation. This is an international organisation linking CBS schools around the world to promote social justice and helps them work together in a coherent way on advocacy work for peace and justice.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The Coláiste Éamonn Rís St. Vincent de Paul Conference has been active since September, meeting weekly to discuss their goals and fundraising ideas for the coming year. The group will continue to work together in 2019 and be involved in the local community helping out where they can and bringing awareness to the great work of St. Vincent de Paul.

JUNIOR CYCLE

New subject specifications have been implemented in the following subject areas: English (First Year 2014-15), Science and Business Studies (First Year 2016-17), Gaeilge, French, German and Visual Art (First year 2017-18), Maths, History, Music and Geography (First Year 2018-19). The various subject specifications are also available on the jct.ie website. The focus in these documents is now very much on learner outcomes rather than content. For further information on the new JC, go to jct.ie/publications/Junior Cycle for Teachers-Parents Information Leaflet/ Primary and Post Primary. Both these documents are also available on the school website. Students who sat the Junior Certificate in 2018 will have their JCPA (Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement) issued early in 2019.

WELLBEING

The Framework for Junior Cycle (2015) provides for a new area of learning at junior cycle called Wellbeing. Wellbeing crosses the three years of junior cycle and build on the substantial work already taking place in the school in support of students' wellbeing. This area of learning will make the school's culture and ethos and commitment to wellbeing more visible to students. It also includes learning opportunities to enhance the physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing of students. It will enable students to build life skills and develop a strong sense of connectedness to the school and their community. The junior cycle Wellbeing programme began in 2017-18 for First Years with 300 hours of timetabled engagement planned across the three years. DES guidelines require this time commitment to build up to 400 hours for First Years starting in September 2020. We are planning to have requirement met for First years starting in September 2019. This will require changes to both the time table regarding curricular provision but will also have knock on consequences on the organisation of the school day etc.

CONSULTATION ON ORGANISATION OF SCHOOL DAY AND TIMETABLE

The Board of Management has been reviewing curricular provision in the school and also the implications of the DES Wellbeing Guidelines for same. In order to facilitate Wellbeing and other subject areas such as PE provision at senior level and ICT at junior level, it has been decided to increase the number of classes per week from 39 to 41. Each of these classes will be 40 minutes. There will be no longer 45 minute classes. Each student will still receive 28 hours class contact as usual. The remaining 40 minutes will be provided over 4 days, 10 minute per day tutor time as part of the Wellbeing programme. The implications of these changes on the timetable and upon start and finish time, length of lunch time etc. are under consideration and consultations have already taken place with staff and the Parents' Council on these issues. The Students' Council will also be consulted before the Board of Management makes a decision on the proposals early in the New Year. Parents/Guardians will be informed of the outcome of deliberations well in advance of their implementation and any changes that are decided upon will not take place until the start of the 2019-20 academic year.

SCHOOL RE-DEVELOPMENT

The school re-development work is in its final phase with work ongoing at the moment to install three basketball courts beside the gym. When this work is finished all that will remain

to be carried out will be work on the school pitch. This may take some time as funding arrangements have to be finalised and a planning application lodged with Wexford County Council before work can begin.

OFFICIAL OPENING

The official opening of the school has been scheduled for Friday 8th March 2019. A sub-committee has been set up by the Board of Management to put all the necessary arrangements in place. Further details will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

SUBJECT INSPECTION

We recently received a very positive Subject Inspection Report arising out of a recent inspection of Science and Physics. It is available on the school website or on the DES website.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE TIMETABLE 2019

The 2019 Leaving Certificate timetable is now available on the school website. The exams will take place over 15 days rather than 13 days to help minimise subject clashes which in the past meant that some students had to sit three exams in the one day.

DEBATING

Well done to the both the junior and senior debating teams who have been very successful this term. The junior debating team consists of Finn Baneham, Evan Murphy, Paddy O'Leary, Conor Mackey, Darragh Corish, Darragh Sinnott, Ronan Brennan and Sam Hoffheinz. They have given some inspiring and entertaining debates in UCD, getting placed 1st and 2nd on several occasions. They are hopeful of proceeding to the next round of the Leinster Schools Competition in January.

The senior debating team of Manus Harte (Captain), Ryan Healy, Eoin Bergin and Cormac Sinnott have triumphed in all of their Concern Debating fixtures. They have overcome stiff competition from Ransgrange Community School, St Peter's College and Creagh College this term. They will take on Our Lady of Lourdes Secondary School on 16th January in the CBS at 8p.m. and a victory here will insure their progression to the next round. Well done to all the students involved. Thank you to Ms Davey and Mr Whitty for their work in preparing the teams and for facilitating the students' involvement in these competitions after school hours.

AWARDS WINNERS

Well done also to David Kelly and Conor Keane, joint winners of the Tony Boland Award for best results in the 2018 Junior Certificate exams. Well done also to all the other T.Y. / Fifth Year students who were awarded prizes at this year's Junior Certificate Awards held in the Riverbank House Hotel on Wednesday 28th November: Eoin Afolabi Joseph, Noel BROWNE, Shane Clancy, Darragh Collins, Jack Forde, Oliver Gould, Liam Lahiff, Denis Miculescu, Kieran Morris, Jordan Murphy, Nathan MURPHY, Gergely PAP, Jahnavi Prasad Parimkayala, Daniel Reck, Jesse Ryan, Daniel Sas, Andrew Tsebrynskvyy, Seán White, Niks

LEO Ziemelis, Ian Cullen, Adam Connolly, Justin Dempsey, Eoin FOLEY, Conor Furlong, Daniel Lawlor, Lewis Leniston, Pierce McDonnell, James Molloy, Daniel Nolan, Addel Rahman Osman, Bartłomiej Pakula, Will Sidney, Andrew Simmons, Jack WALSH, sEáN Byrne, Cian Connolly, Jason Dempsey, Aron Doyle, Callum Doyle, Rian Doyle, Jake Giltrap, Owen Kong, Joshua O'Brien, Callum O'Driscoll, Eamonn O'Leary and Mateusz Wojcieszewicz. Thank you to Mrs Sinnott for organising the evening and to Mrs Margaret Boland for making the presentations on the night.

CHILD PROTECTION

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs commenced the remaining provisions of the [Children First Act, 2015](#) on 11th December 2017. The [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](#) published on 2 October 2017 also became operational on 11th December 2017.

The Children First Act, 2015 provides for a number of key child protection measures that are relevant to schools, as follows:

- A requirement on organisations provided services to children, which includes all schools, to keep children safe and to produce a Child Safeguarding Statement;
- A requirement on defined categories of persons (mandated persons), which includes registered teachers, to report child protection concerns over a defined threshold to the Child and Family Agency (Tusla);
- A requirement on mandated persons which includes registered teachers, to assist Tusla in the assessment of a child protection risk, if so requested to do so by Tusla.

The commencement of the Children First Act, 2015 and the publication of the new Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 has necessitated changes to the existing Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools.

The Department of Education and Skills circular 0081/2017 (published on 11 December, 2017) informs school management authorities that new [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and -Primary Schools 2017](#) have been developed and published following an extensive consultation with the education partners.

The purpose of the new procedures is to give clear direction and guidance to school authorities and to school personnel in relation to meeting the new statutory obligations under the Children First Act, 2015 and in the continued implementation within the school setting of the best practice guidance set out in the updated Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017.

The new [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017](#) include-

- a) the reporting procedures to be followed by registered teachers in respect of their role as mandated persons, including a requirement to liaise with the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and, where applicable, to submit mandated reports jointly with the DLP to Tusla
- b) guidance and direction for schools in relation to meeting their statutory obligations in relation to Child Safeguarding Statements. In that regard, the procedures require that all boards of management use templates published by the Department when preparing, publishing and reviewing their Child Safeguarding Statement.

c) enhanced oversight measures which are aimed at ensuring full compliance by schools with the Children First Act 2015, Children First National Guidance 2017 and with the Department's requirements as set out in the procedures for schools.

All of the requirements of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, apart from those relating to a school's Child Safeguarding Statement, apply to all school personnel and school authorities with **effect from 11 December 2017**.

From **11 March 2018** the requirement to have a Child Safeguarding Statement replaced the previous requirement to have a child protection policy which was in place under the previous Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools published in 2011.

FIRST YEAR 2018-19

The Board of Management offered 108 places in First Year 2019-20. The demand for places greatly outstripped 108 and hence there is a substantial waiting list in place.

TEXT ALERT

Are you getting text messages from the school? If you're not, it's probably because you have changed phone number. Please let us know if you change mobile or landline numbers or address to facilitate updating contact details.

GERMAN SCHOOL EXCHANGE

Mrs Sinnott is currently planning the annual school exchange, in conjunction with the Loreto Secondary School, to a school in Germany. Six of our German students will travel to St. Ursula's Catholic Secondary School in Baden-Wurtemberg in south-west Germany from 31st January-7th February 2019. They will experience life in a German secondary school and will be hosted by German families for the duration of their stay. The German students will come to Wexford in the second week of September 2019.

NEW YORK EXCHANGE

Iona Prep Finally Arrives in Wexford!

Iona Prep's snow postponed March trip to our shores was soon forgotten when they enjoyed a lovely Christmas gathering at the Cunningham's on Monday night. Students, parents and teachers had a lovely meal, chat and a bit of darts, pool and Playstation for good measure. On Tuesday the crew went to the Dunbrody Famine ship, Waterford Crystal and back to where it all began, Sion Hill, Waterford and the Edmund Rice Centre. They were captivated by the very informative tour and inspiring talk from Br. Peadar Gleeson about how the CBS schools all began and how they now carry the torch of social justice for Edmund Rice. The Iona students attended classes in the CBS on their remaining days while the returning teachers were very impressed with our new school and Mr. McMahon was proud to show it off. Our hosts and their guests went for a bowling game and pizza on their last night and fun was had by all.

Our sixth successful exchange came to an end on Friday 7th December when the Iona Prep students and their teachers caught their flight back to New Rochelle, NY with great memories of Wexford hospitality.

As always, it was a great trip made especially enjoyable for Mr. Nolan and Mrs. Hayes by Jack Cunningham, Jake Cunningham, Eoin Kehoe, Joseph Kennedy, Reece Mahon, Adam Minicucci and Cormac Sinnott. They were great to travel with and they and their parents were extremely hospitable hosts. The meeting of the two Brothers schools from two continents continues in the 2018/2019 school year. Long may it continue!

TRANSITION TOUR TO CHINA

On March 14th 2019, 29 Transition Year students and 3 teachers will embark on an exciting journey to China as part of our Chinese Studies programme. They will return home on March 23rd after 8 days of culture, education, history and fun.

Our first port of call will be the dynamic city of Beijing. The students will experience many wonderful sites here including The Great Wall, Tiananmen Square and The Forbidden City. They will haggle in the vast markets and taste many strange delicacies such as fried scorpion. The culture shock is real! We will take on overnight train from Beijing to our next stop, the historical city of Xi'an. The highlight will be a visit to The Terracota Warriors, a sight that has to be seen to be believed. Photos do not do it justice!

This trip marks our 9th year travelling to China. It is a very popular and successful trip and one which we are very proud of. The memories made on this trip will last a lifetime.

While some TY's head to China, 31 other TY students will travel to Italy on the 14th March for a four day tour there led by Mrs Scallan.

FIRST YEAR TOUR TO BERLIN

Preparations are well advanced for the forthcoming First Year tour to Berlin from 6th February-10th February 2018.

PERCENT FOR ART

The art works commissioned by the Board of Management under the Percent for Art scheme have been installed. One piece consists of a large photo mosaic canvas which is hanging in the school lobby. This mosaic canvas is made up of photographic images captured by the students on their day to day journeys. The photo mosaic is representative of their life journey from their formative years in this school to when they look towards new opportunities. The other piece consists of outdoor seating fashioned in such a way that captures something of the town's roots and association with fishing and the sea and the overall theme of journeys which runs through the project

Ms Aileen Lambert was co-ordinating the Percent for Art Scheme on behalf of the Board of Management and the work was that of artist Fiona Murphy from Kells, Co. Meath.

GAELTACHT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Board of Management and the Parents' Council are subsidising six Gaeltacht scholarships again this year to Coláiste na nOileán in Connemara. Three Second Year and three Fifth Year students will be receiving scholarships worth €700 each. For further details see the Irish subject link on the website or contact your son's Irish teacher. Given that the aural and oral components account for 50% of the Leaving Certificate Irish exam, a visit to the Gaeltacht is highly recommended to improve competency in the language. Any parent whose son doesn't win or qualify for one of the scholarships and who wishes to avail of this €700 price should let me know early in the New Year.

MOCK EXAMS

While the Department of Education and Skills waive Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate fees for medical card holders, the school will have to collect mock exam fees from all students to cover Mock Exams costs. The Leaving Certificate Mock Exams fee will be €110 this year and must be paid in advance of the exams online using the appropriate link on the Easy Payments Plus tab on the school website. The Junior Cycle Mock Exams fee will also be €110 this year and must be paid in advance of the exams online using the appropriate link on the Easy Payments Plus tab the school website. The Mock Exams for Leaving Certificate will be held from February 11th -15th February 2019 while the Mock Exams for the Junior Cycle will be held from February 8th -15th 2019.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair held on Friday 7th December in St. Michael's Hall, was a tremendous success again this year with good numbers attending. I would like to thank Mrs Barry, Mrs Codd, Mrs O'Brien and Ms Martin for all their hard work in making the project happen and ensuring the smooth running of events during the course of the day. This annual event helps to spark a great deal of entrepreneurial spirit among the students. I would also like the parents and students who supported the event on the day and helped to make it such a success. Well done to all T.Y, 1st and 2nd year students involved.

NO-UNIFORM DAY

Thank you to all who contributed to our no-uniform collection on Friday 8th December. €930 was raised for the school pitch fund.

EXTRA SUPERVISED STUDY

It is hoped to organise Supervised Study for Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate students during the Easter holidays. Details in relation to cost/times/dates will be finalised in the New Year.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGES

Fifth year students will be invited to apply to travel on the annual pilgrimages to Lourdes early in 2019. Each year Coláiste Éamonn Rís sends four students on the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage in May. Two students will be selected to travel with the IHCPT (Irish

Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust) pilgrimage to Lourdes during the Easter holidays. Students interested should speak to Mr Gannon for further details.

CAREER GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

CAO/PLCs & Careers:

All 6th year students at this stage have received their CAO books as well as instructions from Ms. Barnwell on the application procedure. Further to this, a parent's information evening was held on Monday 12th November, in order to assist parents and guardians in advising students on their best possible options. All students have been strongly encouraged to apply to the CAO system so as to keep their options open for the remainder of the year. In order to avail of an online reduced rate application fee of €30, students must log onto www.cao.ie and make their application before 5.15pm on January 20th 2019. The fee will increase to €45 should a student choose to apply using the paper form or apply between 20th January and February 1st. Therefore all students have been encouraged to apply online. Deadlines are extremely strict and students have been warned of the pitfalls of leaving things to the last minute. Choices made at this point may be altered completely at a later date free of charge if the student wishes from May 5th right up until July 1st 2019 (save for any courses which are restricted i.e. require an additional assessment or portfolio of any nature). A most helpful website in relation to careers and course searching is www.careersportal.ie. This website also has a specific section for Parents/Guardians in relation to guiding the process of career and course choice for their child.

Should any student suffer from a disability, specific learning difficulty, ongoing illness or mental health condition of any nature, they or their parents are encouraged to speak to Ms. Barnwell. There is a supplementary access route for students in this position called the DARE scheme. Should they qualify for this scheme, they can gain access to the course of their choice on a reduced points basis. They may also be entitled to extra tuition and supports once in college. An additional route into 3rd level called the HEAR scheme is applicable to those students who are experiencing severe financial hardship in the home or who come from a family/area where college attendance is not the norm. There are certain criteria to meet for this scheme also so any student interested should consult Ms. Barnwell. Important to note is that not all colleges participate in these schemes. For example, WIT and IT Carlow have their own access routes which require filling out additional forms. Additional and comprehensive information on all of the above can be found on www.accesscollege.ie. The deadline for form submission in relation to these routes is April 1st and intention to apply for these routes must be indicated on the online CAO form by March 1st.

Open Days and Speakers:

50 students attended the Higher Options conference in the RDS back in September. This was an invaluable day of information gathering. Students were able to speak to representatives of the colleges they are considering and also attended talks on various career sectors. Given that the WIT Open day trip had to be postponed, it is now proposed that we will attend the WIT Spring Open Day on March 29th.

A list of all open days and college events can be found on www.qualifax.ie in their events calendar on the home page. Students are strongly encouraged to attend weekend events in their own time in order to help with the college decision-making process.

To date we have had speakers in from the following institutions to speak to 6th years regarding potential options;

DCU, NUI Maynooth, IT Carlow & IT Carlow Wexford campus and UL.

In the New Year, speakers from NUI Galway, UCC, WIT and Enniscorthy Vocational college have been scheduled. There will be further speakers throughout the year and students will be updated as these talks arise. Attendance is strongly encouraged bearing in mind that their CAO choices can be changed later in the year.

Post-Leaving Certificate courses:

If you've finished your secondary education and are thinking about developing vocational or technological skills to get a job, a Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) course could be for you. They are designed as a step towards skilled employment and so they are closely linked to industry and its needs.

PLCs are based on an integrated approach, focusing on technical knowledge, core skills and work experience.

Who are they for?

PLCs are sometimes seen as just available to school-leavers, but you can also attend as an adult participant. The courses are full-time and last for one to two years, offering a mixture of "hands-on" practical work, academic work and work experience.

They can also be a way to step into further third-level education, such as diplomas or undergraduate degrees.

Nearly half the time spent on these courses is devoted to knowledge and skill-training related to employment, with a quarter of the time spent on relevant work-based experience.

What subjects are covered?

Over 90% of PLC courses are delivered by VECs (vocational education committees). Each county or region has its own VEC and currently over 1,000 courses are on offer in some 229 centres.

A wide range of disciplines are covered including business, electronics engineering, computing, catering, sport and leisure, theatre and stage, performance art, art craft and design, equestrian studies, multi-media studies, journalism, tourism, marketing, childcare and community care, hairdressing and beauty care, applied science, horticulture etc.

Qualifications

Many of the one-year PLC courses offer Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) accreditation at level 5. More advanced courses may offer FETAC level 6, which can lead to further studies at third level.

Other qualifications such as City and Guilds are also available. Check out the qualification attached to a particular course before you apply.

PLC Grants

A maintenance grant scheme for PLC is available. The maintenance scheme is means-tested and grants are paid along the same lines as the current third level student support scheme. Grant applications are available from local VECs.

How to apply

In general, you should have finished your secondary education and taken your Leaving Certificate examination in order to be eligible for a PLC course.

Find the course in which you're most interested and apply directly to the school or college offering that course. Because the courses are work-related, you could be called for an interview before final selection.

These interviews are often quite informal, offering you the chance to discuss your interest.

Plc courses can help students gain access to 3rd level should they be unsuccessful in doing so from their Leaving Certificate. They can also be a very strong option for students who are not yet ready to make the full transition from Secondary school to 3rd level.

**** Note:** PLCs have a totally independent process of application from the CAO. Should a student wish to apply for a PLC, they must make an application to the relevant college as it is not a centralised procedure. The process of gaining entry to a PLC is the need to attain at least 5 passes in the Leaving cert as well as successful completion of a short interview. Points are not required. There is a PLC section on www.careersportal.ie . The majority of PLC applications are now done online and deadlines vary from January to February.

Careers Appointments:

All 6th year students have been encouraged to schedule at least 1 careers appointment prior to the CAO deadline with the majority having done so. However there are still a very number of students I have not yet seen and so I would encourage parents/guardians to have them make an appointment immediately after the Christmas break. Any queries may be directed to Ms. Barnwell @ mbarnwell@wexfordcbs.ie . Students requiring follow ups from their first meeting are also encouraged to do the same.

SUSI Grants:

All students in 6th year have the option of making a grant application to SUSI in ordering to obtain financial assistance for 3rd level. This is generally done in April and applications cannot be made prior to this. Once the latest information becomes available I will be delivering this to the various 6th year groups. In the meantime, parents/guardians may investigate the likelihood of being eligible on www.susi.ie . Once you log on, simply select the 'grant process' tab at the top of the homepage. In addition, you may select the 'eligibility' tab. This will help with deciding whether to apply.

3rd Year/TY Subject Choice:

Ms. Barnwell will be conducting a number of information sessions with all 3rd year and Transition year groups during February/March. The purpose of these sessions will be to

inform students of their options moving forward in terms of subject choice/LCVP programme and TY programme (for 3rd years). An information night will also be held for parents/guardians of same in order to answer any queries that may arise. The new points system will also be discussed at this information evening. A comprehensive booklet will be given to each student outlining each subject's content as well as the implications of subject choices for 3rd level courses. Once all of the material has been distributed, students are welcomed to make a one-to-one appointment if needs be in order to discuss their own particular situation if they are confused as to what to choose. They will then complete a form indicating their subject choices in order of preference. This form will likely be due back prior to the Easter holidays.

TY Careers 2018/2019:

All Transition years have had a weekly class to date in careers. The main focus of the first term was on creating a careers portal account, and conducting career interest tests in order to help students determine what potential career paths may suit them. These accounts can be utilised all throughout 5th and 6th year in order to help them make future decisions.

In the New Year, all TY groups will attend a talk given by David Power from WIT. David works in the IT arena and is very knowledgeable on all courses in that field, a field in which there are huge employment opportunities.

Counselling:

The counselling service within the school is an inclusive one which is available to all students. This is a private and confidential service which allows students to experience a safe place in which to discuss any issues they may be experiencing.

Sharing a problem is strongly encouraged by the guidance and counselling department so as to deal with it as quickly and effectively as possible. Simply talking and sharing can be of huge benefit to a student who is under emotional pressure. With the range of difficult issues that teenagers can face these days, it is of utmost importance that they seek help as soon as possible if they feel they are not coping well. We often think that admitting struggle is a sign of weakness, but we all struggle sometimes. We all get overwhelmed sometimes. We all need help sometimes. Acknowledging this is not a sign of weakness.

Bearing the above in mind, there are numerous ways to make an appointment with the Guidance Counsellor (Ms. Barnwell). Students may self-refer by simply calling to the office and asking to schedule an appointment. They may ask a trusted teacher to organise an appointment for them if they feel reluctant/unable to do so themselves. Alternatively, parents/guardians may contact Ms. Barnwell directly via phone (school number) or email @ mbarnwell@wexfordcbs.ie to discuss any concerns they may have or to arrange a meeting.

A new addition this year is a 'suggestion box' which has been placed on the wall outside Ms. Barnwell's office. The box is locked and can only be accessed by Ms. Barnwell. It allows all students equal access to making appointments as they can simply drop a note in the box if Ms. Barnwell is with a student or is in class. The box is checked daily and all urgent cases are dealt with immediately. Please encourage your son to use this method if it is an easier way for him to express an opinion, concern or simply to book a meeting. It can also be used to make suggestions on school related matters.

UNIFORM

School jackets are available from Mr. Hegarty. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are asked to ensure that their son(s) present themselves in school in full uniform. The school jacket is an integral part of the school uniform for all years. Those wearing non-uniform jackets will have them confiscated. Students presenting out of uniform are in breach of the school's Code of Behaviour and will have sanctions imposed, up to and including being sent home. Your help in enforcing the wearing of the uniform is greatly appreciated. Lost jackets can be retrieved from the 'Lost and Found' press. Parents and students should ensure that the student's name is marked on the jacket. Jackets are available to buy from Hore's Stores. The school has a limited supply of small and extra-large jackets left in stock.

CYCLE AGAINST SUICIDE

As part of the Cycle Against Suicide Ambassador School's 5 Gears Programme, Transition Year students now participate in an eight-week module as part of the school timetable. Students engage with group activities and discussions that cover topics such as: positive mental health and creating awareness in our school communities, building resilience, promoting healthy lifestyles and working together as a team to achieve goals.

Within the first term, all TY students cycled the Waterford Greenway, not an easy feat on a wet and windy day. We created a poster with this year's logo: "Positive Vibes, Super Lives". Every year group was given the opportunity to be part of a photograph campaign that was posted on the school's Facebook.

The current TY class is participating in a workshop which revolves around a film-documentary called *The Mask You Live In*. This is available on Netflix for parents/interested parties. The film focuses on young male adolescents and how masculinity impacts upon their daily lives growing up. The TY students have created interview questions and techniques based on the themes covered in the film. All TY classes will have the opportunity to engage with this workshop as the year unfolds.

We would like to thank the students, teachers and school as a whole for their support in this campaign. Shoulder to shoulder we must break the cycle of suicide on the island of Ireland.

SPORT

HURLING

It has been a really busy four months since the new school year kicked off. CBS have already retained our Leinster First Year Hurling Division 3 title and we have also reached the South Leinster final of the Junior 'C' and Senior 'C' championships – both to be played after Christmas.

Training commenced immediately upon returning to school. The juniors (u16.5) were the first team into action and enjoyed comfortable wins over Ramsgrange CS and Bridgetown VC before suffering a narrow defeat away to Colaiste Bhríde (Carnew).

This result meant we finished second in the group and through to the quarter-final where we hosted Callan CBS. We won this by a big margin and were on the road in the semi-final against Grennan College (Thomastown) where we enjoyed a 5-11 to 0-5 win.

We will face familiar opposition in the final as Colaiste Bhríde (Carnew) also made it through and it is expected that the final will be played in Ferns COE in January.

Squad: Chris Ryan, Mark Doyle, Ben Hynes, Sean Byrne, Tommy Gallagher, Darragh Carley (Capt.), Ollie McMahon, Jason Gordon, Eoin Kavanagh, Callum Corcoran, Josh Carley, Eoin Hartigan, Oisín Waters, Zach Breslin, Tadhg Brohan, Alex Looney, Andrew Moran, Jake Doyle, Owen McNulty, Ollie Gould, David Kelly, Conor Keane, Josh Howlin, Rian Doyle.

The seniors (u19) defeated Bridgetown VC and Ramsgrange CS to top their group and advance to a home quarter-final against Callan CBS. After a good game of hurling, we eventually prevailed by 5-17 to 3-7 to set up a home semi-final versus Pres De La Salle Bagnalstown.

This was always going to be a searching test as our opponents are physically bigger but CBS rolled up the sleeves and all our hard work in training paid off as we won by nine points, 4-12 to 2-9.

The final will be against Grennan College (Thomastown) in the New Year with New Ross the probable location.

Squad: Chris Ryan, Conor Graydon, Kyle Scallan, Ben Hynes, Josh McMahon, Joe Barrett, Darragh Carley, Emmett Nolan, Jason Gordon, Paul Leonard, Richard Lawlor (Capt.), Michael Laffan, Eoin Kavanagh, Josh Shiel, Glen Murphy-Butler, Ollie McMahon, Sean Byrne, Chris Flood, Aaron Clancy, David McDonnell, Lee Hore.





In 2017/18 our first years, captained by Cian Doyle, won the inaugural Leinster Division 3 championship defeating Cistercian College Roscrea in the final and this year's first year hurlers have retained the title by overcoming the same opponents.

In round 1, we travelled to Carlow to play St. Joseph's Rochfortbridge and won handsomely after a fine performance. Another two points were picked up from St. Joseph's of Killana (Offaly) resulting in CBS returning to the final against the Roscrea students.

The final was played in early December in the Kilkenny COE at Dunmore and CBS prevailed by 6-5 to 2-4 after another fine display – led by captain Paidi Doyle.

Squad: Jack Kelly, Eoin Browne, Mark Tormey, Eoin Gleeson, Rory Gilbert, Paidi Doyle (Capt.), Darragh Kirwan, Darragh Hayes, Shane Kehoe, Cillian Ferriter, Noah Whelan, William Murphy, Justin McMahon, Shay O'Leary, James Hegarty, Conor Mullen, Bobby Doyle, James Byrne, Shane Carroll, Rory Donoghue, Josh Donovan, Dean Hillis, Conor Martin, Charlie Quirke, Jake Roche, Shea Ryan, Jack Sinnott, Conor Sidney.





This talented bunch had eight sessions on the school's Hurling Wall while the juniors and seniors train together and have enjoyed a total of 23 sessions between the Hurling Wall and then after school in St. Mary's Maudlintown's pitch at The Rocks and the Faythe Harriers Astroturf when the hour went back. We thank both clubs and really appreciate them making their facilities available to us.

Mr. Brosnan and Mr. Howlin would like to sincerely thank Wexford GDA Willie Cleary who spends an incredible amount of time coaching all the teams in CBS and we are very lucky and grateful to have him with us. We also have Wexford GDA Shane O'Hanlon and past pupil Paul Carley in to take coaching sessions with the various teams. Thanks also to Tommy Hynes who is a fantastic help on match day and at the sessions after school.

The juveniles (u14.5) will start their championship in the South Leinster 'B' grade in February and have already started training for this.

Richard Lawlor, Kyle Scallan, Glen Murphy-Butler, Josh Shiel, Joe Barrett and Mick Laffan played on the Wexford Combined Schools team in the Leinster SHC 'A' championship. They enjoyed a big victory over Antrim Schools but narrowly lost to defending Leinster champions Dublin North in DCU. We are very proud to have so many players getting experience of SHC 'A' championship hurling.

We have lots to look forward to in 2019 so it's important to keep up the hard work and bring more silverware back to the Boker! Check out @WexfordCBSGAA on twitter for all the latest news.

Junior Football News

We are currently in the middle of the South Leinster Championship with all to play for. We suffered a disappointing opening round defeat away to a strong Presentation De La Salle Bagenalstown team. After competing well in the first half a concession of goals at crucial times in the second half saw our challenge fade. However the boys picked things up in our next game against Presentation College Carlow. Played on the Sarsfield's pitch in Pairc Charman in tough conditions the CBS boys recorded a great win. A point down at halftime having played with the strong wind, the lads had it all to do. They responded very well and put together some great passages of play to score some great goals and seal the win. This leaves us with a make or break game against Tullow CS at a home venue after the Christmas break to see who emerges from the group. Thanks to the lads for their efforts at training and matches so far.



BASKETBALL

Junior

In the first outing our Junior team played Bridgetown Vocational College. After taking the first quarter to find their feet in the game they soon pushed on, in the third quarter started to put come alive and finished the game winning by over 20 points. Second up was against a very physically big Ramsgrange C.S. team. After struggling to score in the first 3 quarters the team found its shot and with its superior work rate went on a points blitz to run out 10 point winners.

The two victories left both CBS and local town rivals St. Peter's College vying for top spot in the group with a home quarterfinal the prize on offer. In a very tense game that saw both teams compete for every single inch of space on the court CBS trailed by 4 points with less than 3 minutes remaining. CBS showed class, patience and no lack of courage to shut down St. Peter's in the closing minutes with some fine defending leading to some breakaway scores. With less than 30 seconds left Jack Foley showed composure beyond his years to finish another breakaway under pressure. CBS held on to win 22-20 set up a quarterfinal against Waterpark College.

In Waterpark they came up against a very well drilled team with many of their players playing club basketball in Waterford which is a facility sadly lacking for those in Wexford and in the end that proved to be the difference. The team played extremely well however the superior finishing skills of some of Waterpark players made a big difference ending in a 38-33 loss which ended the season.

Many of the team will move on to the Senior ranks next year and if they continue to show the outstanding levels of improvement we saw this year they can make real contributions to an already strong squad. In particular Michael Cleary and Finn Jager have shown a real ability to dominate under the basket both in attack and defence, Michael Mackey continues to shine as a scorer and playmaker, Josh Carley has shown this year that he is capable of containing almost any player, while Adrain Jasawicz, Jack Foley, John Hore and Patrick Healy all contributed with energy, guile and work rate.

Senior

After only losing 3 players from the team that conquered all last season the senior team entered the season hoping to repeat last year's success at a higher level. Every member of the squad and extended panel put in a massive effort in not only attending training but in the effort applied at training. With the recruitment of some newer players the team looked to be the one of the most athletic in recent years and blew early opponents Bridgetown and Ramsgrange away, winning both games by 34+ points while stifling the opposition on defence. This left them, as with the Juniors, with a game to top the group against St. Peter's College.

The game itself followed the pulsating Junior game so both teams were up for the game. However from the start CBS seemed to be the more controlled team, playing energetic lockdown defence alongside a composed passing attack. At half time CBS led by 2 points however feeling it should be more. The game swung decisively in the 3rd quarter when the team went on a 16-8 scoring blitz. St. Peter's attempted a late surge but CBS held onto a 36-28 point win through strong defence and slowing the pace of a sometimes hectic and frantic game.

The Quarter-Final against Clonmel Technical Institute is a game that all involved will feel got away. CBS as a team never got going on the defensive end. In the 3rd quarter CBS led by 8 but were unable to hold onto the lead as the momentum changed in the game. CTI ran out 47-41 winners in a game where CBS's inability to stop the opposition was the difference. However throughout the year the team has proved that it's more than capable of competing and winning at this level. The team will continue to train after Christmas in the hopes of next year again winning some silverware.

Some new players this year have caught the eye, Richie Brown has shown himself to be a dead-eye shooter capable of large scoring outburst while being a solid contributor on defence, Rory Fenlon has added to the offensive and defence with his all energy playmaking and fiercely competitive attitude. The development of players has also helped the team hugely, Denis Miculescu who has always had a gift for scoring has become a thorny, rangy, dependable defender in any position, Adam Feery, Chris Flood, Ice Wong and Sam McQuaid

provide energy both on and off the bench, often making critical plays at the right time. All will be important next year.

However as happens with all Senior teams we must say goodbye to some players as they move onto bigger and better things. James Crean, Shane Bergin, and Luke Maloney all began playing this year and provided height, length, strength, speed and no lack of skill to the team. Luke and James led the teams defence while Shane was always a dangerous attacker. I would like to give a special mention to Seán Reck and Adrijus Kovesnikovas both of whom have been long servants of the school basketball teams. Adrijus has become known as the silent smiling assassin of the team with a lethal long range shot, as our most consistent shooter he could always be relied on for a score. Sean Reck was the ultimate energy man, often coming off the bench providing steals, defensive plays and uncontrollable energy. Both Seán and Adrijus were vital members of last year's success.

SOCCER

SENIOR

It has been an excellent campaign for the senior soccer team to date. The Bokerboys who are competing in the highest grade have been impressing all season and chalked up some memorable victories. They began in the league with a 3-1 win away to Gorey C.S followed by a 6-2 win over Colaiste Bride Carnew. The boys progressed in 2nd place in the group by closing out with a 2-2 draw with Enniscorthy CBS and a 2-1 defeat by Arklow CBS just before the holidays. They will play the semi-final of the Wicklow/Wexford league shortly after the Christmas break. The Leinster senior cup has so far brought some big results, they opened up with a 5-1 win away to Arklow CBS before the 'CBS Classico' where they defeated last year's All-Ireland Champions and big rivals Enniscorthy CBS 2-0 a team we look destined to face once again in the league final. Templeogue College from Dublin were our opponents in the last 16 and the lads beat them 3-2 to progress to the quarter finals where they face Patrician College Newbridge on Thursday the 10th January. To be fair to the lads they have coped well this year and played some outstanding football in a high volume of games at the highest standard against some fine teams. We wish them all the best in the latter stages of their competitions in the New Year.

FIRST YEAR

Our first year soccer team have made a great start to sporting life in the CBS. They won the Wexford county section of the 5aside Futsal competition. They gave a good account of themselves in the Leinster Finals losing by the smallest margin to the eventual provincial champions from Drogheda. The move to 11aside has not daunted them. They beat Arklow CBS by 12 goals to nil in their first game of the league campaign. They followed this up with an impressive 6-2 win in the Leinster Cup against St Finian's College, Mullingar to progress to the last 16 of the competition.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

School re-opens Monday 7th January 2019.

Second Year P/T Meeting Thursday 17th January 2019-Classes end at 3.45pm.

First Year P/T Meeting Monday 28th January 2019-Classes end at 3.45pm.

Junior Cert. Mock Exams Friday 9th February 2019 –Friday 16th February 2019.

Leaving Cert. Mock Exams Monday 11th February 2019–Friday 9th February 2019.

Mid-term Break 18th – 22nd February 2019 inclusively.

St. Patrick's Weekend-Friday 15th-Monday 18th March-school closed.

Easter Holidays Monday 15th April 2019-Friday 26th April 2019.

Mar fhocal scoir,

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir agus athbhliain faoi shéan agus faoi mhaise daoibh freisin

Michael McMahon

