

Fifth Year 2015-16 NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I would like to bring a number of important items to your attention as your son begins fifth year here in Coláiste Éamonn Rís.

Importance of Fifth Year

1. Your son's work rate this year will be central to determining how well he does in his Leaving Certificate. A high work rate, a positive attitude and regular revision are vital for your son in fifth year if he is to fulfil his potential in the Leaving Certificate. **Each fifth year is expected to do at least three and a half hours study and homework every evening, with some additional time over the weekend.**

Parental Involvement

2. **Research shows that parental involvement in a student's education is a key factor in influencing educational outcome ahead of IQ and socio-economic status. Don't underestimate the importance of your role.**

Homework Journal

3. The homework journal is a very important communication vehicle between you as parents and your son's teachers. Please ensure that your son has his homework noted in his diary on a daily basis. This diary should be checked every evening for notes etc. from his teachers.

School Contacts

4. It is very important that your son settles into the new school year quickly. If you have any concerns regarding his progress, please contact the school. The fifth year group has a Year Head and Class Tutors. You should address your concerns initially to the Subject Teacher, Class Tutor or Year Head. However, if your concerns are of a more serious nature, please feel free to make an appointment to meet the Deputy Principal or principal. Queries regarding changing subjects should be addressed to the Deputy Principal.

Fifth Year Year Head:	Mrs. Hayes
Fifth Year Class Tutors:	Ms. Turner/Ms. O'Connor (Biology)
	Mr. Hurley (DCG)
	Mr. Halligan (Construction Studies)

Lockers

5. Lockers have been distributed by the Parents' Council. Any fifth year requiring a locker should contact the school caretaker.

School Fees

6. Many thanks to all those who have paid the lending scheme/ printing fees and the voluntary contribution. If you haven't already done so, please do so as soon as possible. This money helps to ensure that the school stays on a healthy financial footing.

Uniform

7. Please ensure that your son comes to school in full uniform every day, unless you are informed otherwise. You will be informed by text in the event of a 'no uniform day'. The school jacket is part of the school uniform for fifth year students. Non uniform jackets, hoodies etc. will be confiscated.

Personal Property

8. Please also ensure that all property belonging to your son has his name on it as a lot of time and energy is wasted trying to unite lost property with its owners.

Facial Jewellery

9. Please note that facial jewellery is prohibited and will be confiscated.

Parent/Guardian Contact Details

10. If you change your mobile number, please let us know as you will not be in a position to receive texts from the school. A text message will be sent home in the event of your son not presenting for morning and or afternoon classes. **If you are aware that your son is absent, write a note explaining the reason in his diary which should be presented to all his teachers on his return to school.** If he is absent without your permission, please let us know as soon as possible. Please also inform the school office if you change address.

Attendance

11. **Full attendance at school is vital if your son's learning is to progress and he is to reach his potential. Family holidays etc. should be scheduled outside of the school calendar if at all possible.**

Mobile Phones

12. Students are not allowed use phones during class and should have them switched off. Those breaking this rule will have their phones confiscated. They will be returned to the student or parent at the principal's discretion.

Career Guidance

13. **Fifth Years are strongly encouraged to make guidance appointments with Ms. Barnwell at an early opportunity this academic year so as to provide a solid foundation for C.A.O. option selection in sixth year. Should parents have any queries regarding career choice or other concerns regarding their son they may contact Ms. Barnwell directly at cbswexgc@gmail.com.**

Extra-Curricular Activities

14. There is a wide range of extracurricular activities on offer in the school. Cycling, swimming, public speaking, Gaelic football, rugby, hurling, golf, soccer, table tennis and basketball are available so I would encourage you to encourage your son to get involved.

Nut Allergy

15. I would also like to draw your attention once again to the fact that a number of our students and staff have severe nut allergies. Students should not bring nuts, peanuts, peanut butter sandwiches, nut bars etc to school. It would be helpful if you had a discussion with your son on the issue and to further impress on him the importance of vigilance on this issue.

Literacy Campaign

16. As part of our literacy campaign, I would like you to continue encourage your son to read. Your help, encouragement and example in this regard will be vital in maintaining or improving your son's literacy standard. Our 'Drop Everything and Read' literacy initiative continues this year so please make sure that your son has a novel in his bag coming to school.

Child Protection

17. Child Protection: Any concerns on child protection or child welfare issues relating to any of our students should be reported to the Designated Liaison Person (Mr. McMahon) or in his absence the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (Mr. Hegarty).

Study Skills Seminar

18. We organised a Study Skills Seminar for fifth year students on 10th September, costing students €5 per head. The seminar cost €12 per student with the balance of funding provided by the Parents' Council. Students who have not yet paid are asked to do so as soon as possible. It is important that the study tips imparted at the seminar are put to use. Has your son used any of the tips yet? Have a discussion with him on the matter. Studying smartly and effectively is critical if your son is to fulfil his potential.

Supervised Study

19. Supervised study for the first term is now full and a waiting list is being drawn up. Contact Mr. Howlin if you have any queries regarding this service. Those attending Supervised Study have their journals stamped each evening. No stamp=non-attendance!

Parents' Council

20. The Parents' Council AGM was held last night for **Tuesday 6th October**. The Parents' Council would like to encourage parents to become involved with the Council and new members are welcome. The next monthly meeting of the new term is scheduled for **Tuesday 3rd November @7.30pm** in Room 11.

School Mass

21. The school celebrated the beginning of the new school year with Mass in Bride Street church on Tuesday 29th September. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. James Cullen, our new school chaplain. Fr. Cullen has taken over from Fr. Brian Whelan, who gave great support to the school community over the past eight years. We would like to wish Fr. Brian well in his new role in the U.K. as chaplain to the Royal Marines.

Talent Show

22. This year's Talent Show, held on Thursday 1st October, was another great success. The Transition Year students were heavily involved in the project. I would like to thank Ms. Spellman and Ms. Kavanagh for their hard work and expertise in making the initiative such a success once again.

Junior Certificate Results

23. Congratulations and well done to all our fifth year students who sat the Junior Certificate in 2015. We will be holding a Junior Certificate Awards Night later in the school year to celebrate the success of our students.

Parent/Teacher Meeting

24. Please note that the Fifth Year Parent/Teacher meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 24th November 2015 @4.30pm-6.45pm.

Website

25. Visit www.wexfordcbs.ie for updates on happenings in the school. You can also visit www.bokerboys.blogspot.com for latest news.

School Redevelopment

26. Work has begun on our school redevelopment project. Health & Safety is of the utmost importance. Students have been given clear instructions not to enter the restricted areas under any circumstances.

Gaeltacht Scholarships

27. The Board of Management in conjunction with the Parents' Council will be offering a number of Gaeltacht scholarships again this year for Fifth Year students. Please encourage your son to apply. If you are considering sending your son to the Gaeltacht next summer, please contact the school to avail of a discounted rate. Further information from Mr. McMahon.

Upcoming Events

Stay Strong Week 9th - 13th November 2015.

Jersey Day Friday 9th October 2015 in aid of GOAL.

Christmas Fair Friday 4th December 2015.

Best wishes to you and your son for the forthcoming year.

Michael McMahon (Principal)

