

SUMMER 2017 NEWSLETTER

THANK YOU

As the 2016-17 school year draws to a close in Coláiste Éamonn Rís, it is time to reflect on another busy and eventful one. I would like to thank Mr. Hegarty, Deputy Principal, for his hard work, help and support in the running of the school. I would also like to thank all the teaching staff for all their hard work in guiding, instructing and inspiring our students during this school year. Special thanks to the many teachers who gave of their free time to undertake class tutor or year head duties or who volunteered for the various staff committees. It would also be remiss of me not to mention the various teachers who facilitate the provision of an array of extra-curricular activities on offer in the school. These activities add significantly to the educational experience of all our students and greatly enhance and embellish school life. I would like also to record my thanks to Bernie, Colleen and Edel, our SNAs, our canteen staff Martina and Geraldine and our caretaker Derek for their work and support during the last year.

RETIREMENT

This year marks Mr Whitney's thirty fifth and last year teaching in the school. Mr Whitney taught Woodwork and Technical Graphics to generations of young Wexford men. I would like to express our thanks as a school community to Mr Whitney for his professional and dedicated service in the school and to wish him, his wife and family well for a long, healthy and happy retirement. His good humour and compassion will be missed in both the classroom and the staffroom.

BEST WISHES

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Leaving Certificate class of 2017 the best of luck in the Leaving Certificate. Ninety one students will sit the Leaving Certificate here this year. Many hours of study and homework have been spent over the last five or six years in preparation for this exam. I hope it bears fruit over the next few weeks.

The school's mission is to develop responsible individuals in a Christian environment, who will participate fully in a changing society. I trust that our Leaving Certificate students' future lives will bear witness to our success in this regard.

I would also like to extend best wishes to all our Junior Certificate students. 107 students will sit the Junior Certificate here this year. The Junior Certificate exam is an important milestone in their educational journey.

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of all staff and students, I would like to express our deepest sympathy to any family in the school community who were bereaved in the past year and to the following in particular: to Mr Whitney, his wife and family on the death of Richard Whitney; to Mrs Hayes and her family on the death

of her father; to Josh Porter (Third Year) and family on the death of Josh's father; Patrick O'Reilly (Second Year) and family on the death of Patrick's father.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management has had another busy year in guiding the fortunes of the school. I would like to thank Mr. Gerry Forde (Chairperson) and the other Board of Management members for their support and ongoing commitment to the school. The current board's term of office ends in October 2017.

PARENTS' COUNCIL

The Parents' Council has also been very supportive of the school in the past year. I would like to thank the members of the Council for their efforts. This year, once again, the council co-sponsored the Gaeltacht scholarships in conjunction with the board of management. The Council also helped to fund the homework club. The Council has an important role to play in the running of the school. Active participation in the Council's affairs by even more parents would be welcome. I would particularly like to thank the parents involved in preparing for and working at this year's Graduation reception in the school gym. It was a credit to all involved.

Six Gaeltacht scholarships were awarded this year. Four Second Year students (Darragh Collins; Seán White; Owen McNulty; Conor Keane) and two Fifth Year students (Ryan McLaughlin and Aaron Walsh) will be heading to Coláiste na nOileán in Galway for three weeks over the summer.

Roinn na Gaeilge in conjunction with the Physical Education Department organised a four day trip to Coláiste Ácla from 8th-11th May for our Second Year students to improve their linguistic skills in our native tongue and to help promote the language as a living one among the school cohort. Bhain said sult as an turas!

IMMERSION PROJECT

Final preparations are underway for the Immersion Project to Zambia. Seventeen students and four teachers will depart for Zambia on 14th June and return to Ireland on 29th June. All involved were actively engaged in fundraising for the last year in particular. All the funds raised for the Project will be used to help complete the Sables Centre which helps orphaned and vulnerable children. The Sables Centre provides food, shelter, education and counseling for these at risk children and aims to eventually integrate them into the normal education system. Whilst in Kawbe, the group will also engage in home visits, hospice visits and help in the classrooms to educate the children. The project has always been a huge success and the communities visited have greatly appreciated the work and kindness of the students and teachers. Staff and students would like to thank all the parents and members of the public who helped with or contributed to the fundraising efforts or who donated clothes for distribution to the disadvantaged African children.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

I would like to thank the Students' Council for its contribution to school affairs during the last year. I would like, in particular, to thank the Sixth Year members of the council who will be leaving us this year for their efforts on behalf of the student body. The council was represented at Comhairle Na nÓg and a number of members attended E.R.S.T. training during the course of the year.

WEXFORD JUNIOR COUNTY COUNCIL

I would like to thank our representatives on the Wexford Junior County Council- Marcin Bryla, Eoin Bergin, Dan Hendrick and Daniel Tsapchuk have represented the school on this Wexford County Council initiative aimed at improving Council engagement with the young people of the county and at raising awareness of the Council's work.

SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT

The school re-development project is progressing on schedule. We anticipate taking possession of the second phase of the new build by the end of this calendar year. The CBS Primary staff and students will then decant to the temporary accommodation currently occupied by the secondary school for the duration of their redevelopment works.

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION-SSE

A/LITERACY

Having completed Year 3 of the school's School Improvement Plan focusing on Literacy in 2015-16, some time was spent reviewing progress and reflecting on the relative success of the various initiatives put in place. A new SIP has been developed. Thank you to all the first year parents who attended the final of the Spelling Bee and well done to Adam Ffrench who won first prize. Initiatives which have been put in place in the school to encourage reading among our students such as Drop Everything and Read and Book in the Bag will continue in the new school year. The continued support and co-operation of parents will be vital to the success of these initiatives as the school strives to further improve literacy standards in the school. The new School Improvement Plan (SIP) Literacy is available on the school website.

B/NUMERACY

We have just completed Year 3 of the school's School Improvement Plan focusing on Numeracy. A review of progress under the Numeracy Plan is currently underway with a view to putting a new plan in place for the next three years.

C/TEACHING AND LEARNING

2016-17 saw the formulation of a School Improvement Plan (SIP) focusing on Teaching and Learning. The new School Improvement Plan (SIP) Teaching and Learning is available on the school website. The principal, Mrs Hayes and Ms B. Roche finished the second and final year of the Instructional Leadership Programme run by Professor Barrie Bennett in conjunction with the ETBI. Three more teachers (Mrs

Breen, Mrs O'Brien and Ms Ivers) have commenced the programme and they will continue to attend inservice in the 2017-18 school year. The school received a very positive History Subject Inspection during the year. The report is available on the school website (www.wexfordcbs.ie) or on the DES website (www.education.gov.ie). Further progress has been made on the implementation of the recommendations of the Department of Education Inspectorate WSE-MLL Report (Whole School Evaluation-Management, Leadership and Learning) carried out in November 2014.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Given the cutbacks in funding for education recent times, parental financial contributions to the running of the school are as important as ever. High insurance costs coupled with decanting costs associated with the building project means that it will be harder to pay the school's bills this year. I would like to thank those who have given generously this year and I would appeal to all parents to make an extra effort next year to contribute to the voluntary contribution at the beginning of the school year. Your financial contributions are greatly appreciated. The costs of moving in to the new build will have to be borne by the school and these costs are considerable. We also hope to install an all-weather pitch when the school re-development work is complete and all costs of same will also have to be borne by the school

PUBLIC SPEAKING/DEBATING

Debating and public speaking are becoming increasingly popular within the school. I would like to congratulate the students involved for their efforts throughout the year and to thank Mr. Whitty for all the work he puts in preparing the various teams and the time spent bringing students to competitions in Dublin during the year.

ENROLMENT

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are reminded to submit Intention to Enrol forms for younger male siblings if they haven't already done so.

TRANSITION YEAR

There will be four Transition Year classes next year. The Transition Year programme which will provide the students involved with many educational challenges both within and beyond the school walls.

PILGRIMAGES 2016-17

This year two of our students travelled to Lourdes to represent us on the Ferns diocesan pilgrimage. They acted as helpers on the pilgrimage and all found the experience to be a very rewarding one. Ryan McLoughlin and Andrew Gibbons travelled on the diocesan pilgrimage as part of the Ferns delegation. I received very positive feedback from the group leader on the students.

Four of our students travelled with the IHCPT to Lourdes. Adam McGuire, Lee Walsh, Kyle Long and Luke Rogan Sheil travelled during the Easter holidays to the French shrine. They were a credit to their families and their school.

CYCLE AGAINST SUICIDE

As part of the Cycle Against Suicide (CAS) awareness campaign, Coláiste Éamonn Rís took part in the Carlow to Portlaoise leg on Friday 5th May 2017. All the partaking students were amazing on the day; their perseverance and positive attitude mirrored the purpose of the cycle as a whole. As the CAS slogan goes, 'Shoulder to shoulder we can break the cycle of suicide on the island of Ireland'. I would like to congratulate and thank Ms Ivers for her Trojan and ongoing work in spearheading the initiative in the school and thank her and other staff members who were involved in the training runs and to congratulate all the students who took part in the cycle.

TEXT MESSAGING

As you are aware, a text message is sent out to parents of students who do not present at 9.05am or at 1.45pm. Text messages are also sent to alert parents about staff meetings, parent-teacher meetings, late detentions, report card detentions etc. Please ensure that if you change your mobile contact number that you let us know. Similarly, if you change address, please let us know in order to change your contact details on the school administration system.

LUNCHTIME/SIGNING OUT

A reminder to all parents of Junior Cycle students that they are forbidden from leaving the school grounds at lunchtime unless accompanied by a parent or a teacher. No exceptions will be made. Junior Cycle students who leave the school premises without permission will face severe sanction. **Junior Cycle students must be collected if they need to leave the school premises during the school day for appointments etc. All pupils must get permission to sign out before leaving the school premises.**

BOOK FUND

All parents who require financial help with the purchase of text books should have received the Book Grant form. These should have been returned to the school office.

BOOKLISTS and EXAM TIMETABLES

The 2017-18 booklists for the various years are available on the school website. Copies have also been distributed to each student. The 2017-18 school calendar is now also available on the school website. A copy will also be posted to each parent/guardian. The Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate timetables are also available on the school website and the State Examinations Commission website www.sec.ie.

CHINA 2017-2018

Mr. Ahearne has already begun preparations for next year's Transition Year trip to China. This year's trip was another great success with thirty one students and three teachers making the journey. They visited Beijing and Shanghai for what was a wonderful educational experience. They visited the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace while staying in Beijing before heading south to Shanghai. I would like to thank Mr. Ahearne for his time and energy in making these trips possible and the Confucius Institute in UCD for their help in facilitating the trips.

GERMAN EXCHANGE

Mrs Sinnott is currently planning a school exchange, in conjunction with the Loreto Secondary School, to St. Ursula's Catholic Secondary School in Baden-Wurtenberg in south-west Germany for 2017-18. Those travelling will experience life in a German secondary school and stay with German families for a week.

Thank you to the parents who hosted students during this year. I would like to thank Mrs Sinnott for her work in organising our part of the exchange.

NEW YORK EXCHANGE

Mrs Hayes has been doing some preparatory work with our fellow CBS school, Iona Prep in New Rochelle, New York with a view to organizing a student exchange between the schools later in the year.

CUMANN ÉAMAINN RÍS

Well done to all the members of the Justice and Peace Society who undertook various initiatives in the school in the past year. The society reflects the values of Edmund Rice and presented further leadership opportunities for our students. The society also raised money for cancer research this year.

END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Sixth Year Graduation Mass and Awards Night

The Sixth Year Graduation Mass was held in the G.P. room in the school on Thursday 25th May at 7.30pm, celebrated by Fr. James Cullen. All Sixth Years and their families were invited to attend. I would like to thank all associated with the end of year awards and ceremonies for all the hard work in making the night such a success. The Mass was followed by our Awards Ceremony and a buffet. The Parents' Council financed the food and did a splendid job in organising the buffet.

Sixth Year Academic Award Winners

Accounting	Tony Wilde
Applied Maths	Graham Smyth
Art	Danial Bin Azaharan
Biology	Alex Eydt
Business Studies	Tony Wilde
Classical Studies	Kean Kehoe
Chemistry	Vincenzo Favia
Construction Studies	Andy Wongprachan
Design & Communication Graphics	Thomas McGuinness
English	Tony Wilde
French	Danial Bin Azaharan
German	Cathal Crowe
Geography	Alex Eydt
History	Cathal Crowe
Irish	Graham Smyth
LCVP	Conor Bergin
Maths	Graham Smyth
Physics	Vincenzo Favia

The Edmund Rice Award: The premier award the school bestows on one of the graduating students is the Edmund Rice Award, named after the school's founder. The students nominated for this award are those considered to best embody the spirit of the school -young men who use their academic abilities but also demonstrated throughout their school careers the qualities of integrity, leadership, co-operation and commitment to the school ethos.

Joint Winners- Alex Eydt and Tony Wilde

Transition Year Awards Night

The Transition Year Awards ceremony was held in the school's gym on Friday 26th May. This gave the Transition Year students an opportunity to showcase some of the year's activities to their parents.

Nominations for Spirit of Transition Year Award

The following students were nominated for the Spirit of Transition Year Award: Ryan Kavanagh; Cian Dempsey; Cian Foley; Gary Hall Roche; Ryan Healy; Niall Reck; David Harte; Jack Berry; Fionn Roche; Shane Bergin; Carlos Sasaran; Daniel Tsapchuk, Kian McCormack and Paul Lohier.

Paul Lohier and Ryan Kavanagh emerged as the worthy joint winners of the Spirit of Transition Year.

Awards Night

Our twelfth Annual Awards Night took place on Monday 29th May in the Riverbank Hotel. This year the guest speaker was Dr David Dempsey, a past pupil of the school. The awards ceremony is held to recognise and affirm the efforts of those of our students who have set high academic standards, those who have worked to the best of their ability and those who have set sporting standards in the school. They seek to affirm the positive and are a celebration of our students' academic and sporting excellence.

5th Year Subject Award Winners 2017

<i>Irish (H):</i>	<i>Martin Kehoe</i>
<i>Irish (O):</i>	<i>Dylan Wright</i>
<i>English (H):</i>	<i>Martin Kehoe</i>
<i>English (O):</i>	<i>Adrian Morris</i>
<i>Maths (H):</i>	<i>Conn McIntyre</i>
<i>Maths (O):</i>	<i>Ben Creane</i>
<i>History:</i>	<i>Adam Flaherty</i>
<i>Geography:</i>	<i>Luke Flaherty</i>
<i>French:</i>	<i>Martin Kehoe</i>
<i>German</i>	<i>Luke O'Neill</i>
<i>Accounting:</i>	<i>Cormac Monaghan</i>
<i>Business:</i>	<i>Cathal Kirwan</i>

Physics:	Angelo Miculescu
Chemistry:	Angelo Miculescu
Art:	Evan Daly
Construction Studies:	Chris O'Dowd
Design & Comm. Graphics:	Chris O'Dowd
Biology:	Abdullah Azam
L.C.V.P.	Aaron Walsh
Religion	Patsy Whelan
Classical Studies	Graeme Smyth
Agricultural Science	Diarmuid McDonald
Religion	Ibar Quirke

2nd Year Awards 2017

Academic Award Winners

Beethoven

Gergely Pap

Noel Browne

Andrew Tsebrynskyy

Handel

Jahnavi Parimkayala

David Kelly

Darragh Collins

Mozart

Conor Keane

Merit Award Winners

Matthew Colgan

Seán Byrne

Cian Hunt

Cian Black

Owen McNulty

Adam Connolly

Luke O'Rourke

Jack Walsh

Strauss

Denis Miculescu

Daniel Nolan

Eoin Foley

Conor Furlong

Shane Clancy

Vivaldi

Sean White

Jordan Murphy

Jack Forde

Aaron Doyle

Eoin Afolobi Joseph

3rd Year Award Winners 2017

Academic

Merit Award Winners

Euclid

Glen-Murphy-Butler

Ruairi Fenlon

Paul Leonard

Pierce Brennan

Jakub Pakula

Hamilton

Manus Harte

Callum O'Regan

Wen Geng Lin

Josh Shiel

Robert Molloy Nolan

Newton

Adam Mahon

Adam Moriarity

Aaron O'Connor

Sam McQuaid

Adam Feery

Pythagoras

Joe Barrett

Michael Laffan

Ian Sweetman

Cormac Sinnott

David McDonnell

ENTERPRISE AWARD WINNERS

First Year Winner Cillian Doyle

Second Year Winner Conor Keane

The Kathleen Fahy Award

The school has a proud tradition of community involvement and charitable work and encourages the students to extend their life experience and to be of benefit to the community within which they live.

Winner 2017- Aaron Doyle (Second Year)

The Performance Arts Award

Winner 2017 Ryan Kavanagh (Transition Year)

Visual Arts Award

Winner 2017 Tomás McIntyre

Debating/Public Speaking

Senior-Conn McIntyre

Junior-Josh Porter and Cormac Sinnott

Sports Award Winners

Under 19 Soccer- Luke O'Neill and Dion Murphy

Under 17 Soccer-Todd Hynes

Under 15 Soccer-Robert Molloy Nolan

First Year Soccer –Darragh Carley

Soccer Golden Boot-Aaron Roche

Senior Football-Shane Hall and Jamie Thomas

Junior Football-Kallum Broaders

Juvenile Football-Luke O'Rourke

First Year Football-John Hore

Senior Hurling-Cormac Byrne

Junior Hurling-Glen Murphy-Butler

Juvenile Hurling-David Kelly

First Year Hurling-Darragh Carley

Junior Rugby-Darragh Byrne

First Year Rugby-Michael Cleary

Cross Country Athletics-Conor Keane

Track Athlete of the year-Aaron Smith

Field Athlete of the Year-Jack Forde

Golfer of the Year-John Brady

Senior Basketball-Angelo Miculescu

Junior Basketball-Denis Miculescu

First Year Basketball-Josh Carley

Junior Swimming-Cillian Shiggins

Senior Swimming-Kieron Murphy

Senior Water Polo-Seán Reck

Junior Water Polo-Adam Mahon

Sports Review Highlights

Athletics

The Senior 4x100m Relay team (Aaron Smith, Luke O'Neill, Sam O'Neill and David McDonnell) won gold in the Senior Leinster Finals and also qualified for the All Irelands. David Mc Donald finished second in the Leinster Senior 100m and 200m. He also progressed to the All Irelands in both events. Aaron Smith claimed silver in the 110m Hurdles at the Senior Leinster Finals. Given this array of sprinting talent, the school was awarded the Leinster Athletics Best School at the Leinster finals.

Gergley Pap, Second Year won gold at the Junior Leinster Finals in both Shot and Hammer. Jack Forde won gold in the High Jump in the Junior Leinster Finals while Nathan Murphy won silver in the Junior Leinster Finals in the Discus. All three also qualified for the All Irelands.



Soccer

Our First Year soccer team emerged as school Team of the Year winning three titles (Wexford-Wicklow League: Leinster Champions League: Leinster Cup) and qualified for the All-Ireland Final. They came up against a very strong and skillful team from St. Joseph's (The Bish) Galway City in the final and lost out on a three nil score line. The boys were a credit to their parents, their clubs and the school and served as great ambassadors in terms of their talent and sportsmanship around the country. Mr Nolan and Mr Whitty deserve great credit for their work with the boys during the year.



CAREER GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING – Ms. Barnwell

CAO:

6th year students are now in a position to review their CAO course choices for college through utilising the CAO 'change of mind' service. This facility allows students who have applied for CAO to add to, delete or alter the order of their course preferences. Changes can be made on line and it is advisable to do this as opposed to filling out paperwork as it helps avoid any mistakes. This facility will remain open until July 1st. After this date it will not be possible to amend selections. It is vital that every student enters their selections in genuine order of preference so as to avoid disappointment when offers are released in August.

On this note, it is important to note that CAO offers will be issued in August a number of days after Leaving Certificate results have been released. Offers are usually issued at 6am on the CAO official website on the student's individual account and can be accepted online. There is usually a week's grace period within which students must decide whether they will accept the offer made. It is important to note that if a student fails to accept an offer and subsequently receives no further offers should there be a second round, they will have no entitlement to then accept the first offer. Second round offers are by no means guaranteed so it is advisable to accept first round offers. Should a second offer arise, the student may then accept it if they wish and it cancels out the first offer. If there are any queries whatsoever on this process, students & parents can contact Ms. Barnwell on cbswexgc@gmail.com . There is also a contact facility for CAO which can be found on their website www.cao.ie .

Grants:

All 6th year students have received information on how to go about applying for both fee and maintenance grants. All applications are now centralised through SUSI. Information on eligibility, income limits, candidate status etc. can be found on the official website www.susi.ie . A contact number for the SUSI support helpline as well as an email address for same can also be found on this website. Should parents/guardians wish to view a step by step guide on how to make a grant application, a video tutorial can be found by logging onto www.youtube.com and entering 'susi video' in the search bar. This will show a 15 minute clip on the stages of the application and can be extremely useful especially for first time applicants. Various documents are needed to support the application and these are outlined in this video. Finally, applications opened at the end of April and will remain open for the summer. Applications must be made through www.studentfinance.ie and I would advise that they are made as soon as possible so as not to risk any delays in payment once a student has enrolled in 3rd level or further education.

Note: Grant applications may also be made for students intending on pursuing a PLC course upon leaving school.

RDS Higher Options Seminar September 2017:

Every September, The Irish Times Higher Options brings a world of study choice to students. For three days, students are offered a unique opportunity to meet directly with over 150 representatives from universities, colleges and education institutions from Ireland, the UK, Europe and beyond. Ms Barnwell will be taking students (Sixth Year 2017-18) to this event. It will provide an invaluable experience in terms of information gathering and fact-finding for students exploring their options upon leaving the CBS. There will be various talks running throughout the day on different career paths as well as stands from each institution whereby students can pose questions to the relevant people on their courses of interest.

Throughout the year it is intended to also have numerous guest speakers from numerous institutions come into the school to speak to next year's 6th year students.

On a final note, just a reminder that careers, educational, or personal counselling appointments with Ms. Barnwell are available to all students in the school at any time throughout the coming academic year. Students who need assistance in any of these 3 areas are strongly encouraged to approach the Guidance office to make an appointment. Alternatively, any general queries, appointment requests etc. can be sent directly to Ms. Barnwell at cbswexgc@gmail.com.

UNIFORMS

All students require a school jacket as part of the school uniform. Incoming Fifth Year and Transition Year students will require the blue polo short/ sweater combination instead of the blue shirt, tie and grey jumper. **Please note that jackets/polo shirts/sweaters are no longer available from the school.** They are available in local shops.

MEITHEAL LEADERS 2017-18

Thank you to all the Sixth Year Meitheal leaders for their work in the past year. Congratulations to all the Fifth Year students who applied to become Meitheal leaders for 2017-18. Twelve were selected from the applicants following an interview process. The Meitheal leaders act as mentors for the first year cohort and play an important role in ensuring that each one of them has a friendly and accessible outlet to share and address any problem that may arise.

The successful candidates were as follows: Kyle Long; Luke Dowdall; Diarmuid McDonald; Ryan McLaughlin; Angelo Miculescu; Adam Dempsey; Aaron Smith; Ultan Warren; Darragh Whelan; David Corish; Adam McGuire and Martin Kehoe.

Training for the new Meitheal leaders will take place on 31st July and 1st August 2017.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN Coláiste Éamonn Rís

As you are no doubt aware, Coláiste Éamonn Rís is a Restorative school. What does this mean? This is an approach where our school community manages conflict, harm and tensions by repairing and building relationships.

Restorative Practices (RP) is an approach to problem solving that is based around three basic concepts-

- That when an incident (or wrongdoing) occurs, the focus is on the harm that has been done to people and relationships.
- When harm has been done, it creates obligations, liabilities and responsibilities.
- The way forward involves wrongdoers, victims and the school community in efforts to heal the harm and put things right so that all involved can move forward in a constructive way.

Traditional approach to discipline

- A violation against the rules of the school. Someone is found guilty and is punished in relation to rules and regulations i.e. What rule have you broken? What is the sanction for breaking that rule?
- Punishment alone for the offender offers little in the genuine way of accountability; does little to meet a victim’s needs and does little to address the causes of the wrongdoing.

A restorative approach.....

- Demands that we think about what happens in terms of its negative impact on people and relationships i.e. who is affected by this and how their needs might be met in the aftermath of the incident.
- Provides an insight for the offending student into the impact of his/her behaviour on others and gives an opportunity for the offending student to repair the resulting harm.
- Allows those affected to confront the offending student, to voice their feelings safely and be part of the decision making process Minimises the potential of further inappropriate behaviour.
- Involves family and significant others to increase greater accountability.
- Provides the school community with an appropriate response following disruptive and serious incidents.

Traditional Discipline	Restorative Approach
Viewed in terms of rule-breaking	Viewed in terms of harm done to individuals
Focus on establishing blame or guilt	Focus on establishing responsibility and way forward
Authority figure with power to decide on penalty	Dialogue involving all parties in the incident
Accountability=getting punished	Accountability = working to put things right
Punishment to deter	Repair, apology and reparation
The needs of those affected are often ignored	The unmet needs behind the behaviour are addressed
Wrong doer feels hard done by and bitter	Wrongdoer has opportunity to face up to poor decisions
Victim has no involvement and feels powerless	Victim has involvement in process and contribution to outcome
Resentment, denial, anger, fear, revenge are common during and after process	Empowerment, honesty, openness, opportunity to move on, peace of mind after process

Target outcomes of Restorative Practices

1. The victim is able to feel safe again.

2. The focus is on harm to people and acceptable behaviours. This reduces the likelihood of blame or denial.
3. The wrongdoer and his/her family are more likely to accept responsibility for what has happened.
4. The wrongdoer will develop a greater empathy from the conference experience and is less likely to re-offend as a result.
5. The offending student will be reintegrated into the wider school community.

USE OF MOBILE PHONES

MOBILE PHONES ARE TO BE SWITCHED OFF AND PUT AWAY AT 9.05AM. **THEY MAY ONLY BE USED DURING THE MORNING BREAK OR AT LUNCH TIME UNLESS UNDER THE EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION OF A TEACHER FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.** USE OUTSIDE THESE TIMES WILL RESULT IN THE PHONE BEING CONFISCATED AND GIVEN TO THE PRINCIPAL. PHONES WILL BE RETURNED TO THE STUDENT OR HIS PARENT/GUARDIAN AT THE PRINCIPAL'S DISCRETION.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Re-opening dates:

The school will reopen on Monday 28th August 2017.

Timetable for return for Second/Third/Fifth and Sixth Years to be confirmed in August.

First Year Induction Day Tuesday 29th August 9.05am-4pm/Transition Year 10.00am-12pm.

SCHOOL CLOSING

The school office will close on Friday 23th June @4.30pm and will re-open on Tuesday 15th August @ 9am. The Leaving Certificate results are due out on Wednesday 16th August.

FINALLY

I would like to wish all our staff, parents/guardians and students a safe and enjoyable summer. Le gach dea-ghuí.

Michael Mc Mahon.