

Sixth 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 his final year in secondary school here in Coláiste Éamonn Rís.

School Journal

1. 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. **Each sixth year is expected to do at least three and a half hours study every evening, with some additional time over the weekend.**

School Contacts

2. 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. 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.

Sixth Year Year Head: Mrs. Barry

Sixth Year Class Tutors: Ms. MacDonald

Mrs. Sinnott

Lockers

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

Supervised Study

4. 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. Students that attend Supervised Study will have their journals stamped each evening to signify attendance on that evening. No stamp=non-attendance!!



Leaving Certificate Mock Exams

5. The Leaving Certificate Mock Exams will begin on Monday 22nd February 2015 immediately after the February Mid-term break. While the Department of Education and Skills waive Leaving 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 Exam fee in 2014-2015 was €100. The fees will be collected in early February 2016.

Uniform

6. Please ensure that your son comes to school in full uniform every day, unless you are informed otherwise. Non uniform jackets, hoodies etc. will be confiscated. You will be informed by text in the event of a 'no uniform day'.

Lost Property

7. 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.

Parent/Guardian Contact Details

8. If you change your mobile number, please let us know or otherwise 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.

Non-Attendance

9. If your son is absent from school with your permission, please write a note explaining the reason in his diary. The diary 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.

Nut Allergy

10. I would also like to draw your attention 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 about this matter with your son and to further impress on him the importance of vigilance on this issue.

Child Protection

11. 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).

Careers Day

12. Ms. Barnwell arranged for sixth year students to attend the Careers Day in the R.D.S. in Dublin on Wednesday 16th September. Sixty-five students travelled.

Career Guidance

13. **Sixth year students 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. Should parents have any queries regarding career choice or other concerns regarding their son they may contact Ms. Barnwell directly at cbswexgc@gmail.com. It is vitally important the conversation around the CAO etc. starts now if it hasn't already!**

Parents' Council

14. The Parents' Council AGM was held on **Tuesday 6th October @ 7.30pm**. The next scheduled meeting of the Parents' Council will take place on Tuesday 3rd November.

School Mass

15. 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

16. 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.

School Fees

17. 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.

Attendance

18. 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

19. 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.

Facial Jewellery

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

Literacy Campaign

21. As part of our literacy campaign, I would ask you to continue encouraging your son to read. 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.

Website

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

Parent/Teacher Meeting

23. Please note that the Sixth Year Parent/Teacher Meeting is scheduled for Monday 9th November @4.30pm-6.45pm. **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. We are expecting a 100% turn-out of parents at this year's sixth year parent-teacher meeting**

Academic Monitoring/Mentoring

24. Mrs. Barry and I have already met with some of the sixth years on an individual basis to discuss their academic progress to date, well-being and plans for the future. We will continue with this work in the forthcoming weeks.

School Redevelopment

25. 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.

Upcoming Events

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

Stay Strong Week 9th-13th November 2015.

Christmas Fair Friday -4th December 2015.

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

Michael McMahon (Principal)

