Transition Year Newsletter 2016/2017

September 2016

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

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

Student 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.

Homework

2. **Each transition year student is expected to do at least one hour at homework and study every evening, with some additional time over the weekend.**

School Contacts

3. 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, 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.
   Transition Year Year Head: **Ms. Breen**

Parents' Council

4. The Parents' Council would like to encourage parents to become involved with the Council and new members are welcome. The AGM is scheduled for **Tuesday 4th October @ 7.30pm** in the GP Room.

Fees

5. Many thanks to all those who have paid the Transition Year fee of €400. This money helps to cover the cost of T.Y. trips, tuition fees, bus hire etc. as outlined below. Outstanding fees are now due.

Transition Year Costs 2016-17

Computer Course (MOS)	€60
Insurance/Photocopying	€30
P.E.	€35
Workshops	€20
Bus Hire	€60
Day Trips	€145
Shielbaggan OED	€50
TOTAL	**€400**

The following activities are included in the cost:

Gravity;

Adventure Alley;

Musical or Play;

Ploughing Match;

Song School Workshop;

Kilternan skiing trip.

Please note that individual subject teachers may organise trips and these are not provided for in the above costs. These will need to be paid for separately.

Uniform

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

Attendance

7. **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. **I would ask parents to exercise a zero tolerance approach to excuses for not attending from their sons during this year.**

No Excuses

8. All T.Y. students are expected to attend all the workshops and trips organised as part of T.Y. T.Y. students are expected to step outside their own comfort zones. If cost is an issue, please let us know well in advance of the trip/workshop.

Mobile Phones

9. 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.

Personal Property

10. 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

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

Parent/Guardian Contact Details

12. 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.

Nut Allergy

13. 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 with your son on the matter and to further impress on him the importance of vigilance on this issue.

Literacy Campaign

14. As part of our literacy campaign, I would like you to encourage your son to read. Your help, encouragement and example in this regard are vitally important in maintaining or improving your son's literacy standard.

Child Protection

15. 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).

Junior Certificate Results

16. Best wishes to all our Transition Year students who will be receiving their results on Wednesday next, September 14th. Results will be distributed to the students after the 11.10am break. The Transition Year students will then be allowed to go home. **Parent(s)/guardian(s) are asked to collect their son from the school.** We will be holding a Junior Certificate Awards Night later in the year.

Website

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

Career Guidance and Counselling

18. **Transition Years are strongly encouraged to make guidance appointments with Ms. Barnwell at an early opportunity this academic year in order to make informed decisions on subject choices in advance of fifth year. Should parents have any queries**

regarding career or subject choices choice or other concerns regarding their son they may contact Ms. Barnwell directly at cbswexgc@gmail.com. The conversation around subject choices should begin now at home if it hasn't already commenced.

Extra-Curricular Activities

19. There is a wide range of extracurricular activities on offer in the school. Cycling, swimming, public speaking, Gaelic football, rugby, hurling, golf, soccer, athletics, table tennis and basketball are among the activities on offer.

School Mass

20. The school will celebrate the beginning of the new school year with Mass in Bride Street church on Tuesday 27th September @12 o'clock. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr. James Cullen, our school chaplain.

School Redevelopment

21. It has been a busy summer decanting to the temporary accommodation. We have also taken possession of our new gym and computer room. Demolition work has commenced on the old school in preparation for substantive building works. We hope to be in a position to take possession of the new build in late in 2017.Parent(s)/guardian(s) are asked to park off site if visiting the school and to exercise care when entering the campus as vehicular and pedestrian traffic share the same access route. Health & Safety is of the utmost importance and students have been given clear instructions not to enter the restricted areas under any circumstances.

Upcoming Events

Stay Strong Week 21st - 25th November 2016.
Jersey Day Friday 14th October 2016 in aid of GOAL.
CBS Talent Show Thursday 17th November (tbc)

Michael McMahon (Principal)