

CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2013

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Bhur gcéad fáilte go dtí nuachtitir na Nollag 2013. 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 their hard work on behalf of the school community in the past year. 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.

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The current Board of Management is in its third year of a three year term. The Board consists of eight members. Four are Trustee representatives; Mr. Gerry Forde (Chairperson), Mr. Jim Hurley, Dr. Tom Mc Loughlin and Miss Ann Walsh. Two are teachers' representatives; Mr. Sean Ahearne and Mrs Colleen Hayes. Two are parents' representatives; Ms. Anita Moloney and Mr. Anthony Roche. The Board has recently reviewed the school's Child Protection Policy, and the school's Admissions Policy. The school's Anti-bullying Policy is to be reviewed early in 2014 and the updated policy will incorporate the procedures outlined in the recent Department of Education and Skills document on the topic. The Board is delighted that the school extension and refurbishment has been sanctioned for construction in 2014. Plans are well advanced at this stage. As you are aware, the plans are available for viewing elsewhere on the school website. The project has been sanctioned to go to the Pre-tender stage, where contractors will be invited to apply to be included on the tender list. This process takes approximately three months. When this is successfully completed, the project will then go to tender. We are hoping to be in a position to begin the construction process in June 2014. The first phase will involve construction of the new gym and the installation of temporary accommodation on the playing pitch. This phase is expected to take about six months. This will be followed by the decanting to the temporary accommodation, the demolition of the parts of the school earmarked for demolition, the construction of the new classrooms etc. and the refurbishment of the part of the Junior Block being retained.

THE PARENTS' COUNCIL

A new Parents' Council committee was elected at the A.G.M. in October. The elected officers are as follows; Mrs Abina Moore (Chairperson), Mrs Adimbola Okegbile (Secretary), Mrs Joan Creane (Treasurer). The Council has kindly donated €2,000 towards the cost of First and Second Year Homework Clubs. The Council is also once again partially sponsoring a number of Gaeltacht scholarships for summer 2014 and has donated €1,290 towards the cost of multi-seating for the G.P. room. If any parent has a concern they would like discussed or an idea that they think could be of benefit to the school community, they are welcome to attend meetings or to bring the matter to the attention of a Council member.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL 2013-14

The Students' Council is the representative body for all students in the school. It is elected each year in September. It meets regularly to discuss school matters. The Students' Council sent 2 delegates to the Comhairle Na n-Óg, the youth parliament for all schools and youth groups in Co. Wexford in November. Ryan Blanch is the Chairman and the Vice Chairman is Evin Ryan. Conor Lynott (5th Year Representative), is a member of the executive of the Irish Schools Students' Union. The I.S.S.U. is a student driven body drawing from Students' Councils nationally. Conor follows last year's Students' Council Chairperson Nathan O'Connor in occupying a seat on the executive, the only student from any school in the south-east to achieve this.

Students' Council 2013-14: Ryan Blanch, Luke Jackson, Hugh Fanning, Paul Bailie, Ibar Quirke, David Okegbile, Evin Ryan, Patsy Whelan, Ryan Healy, Robert Borhan, Philip Cullen, Eoin O'Connor.

The Students' Council would like to thank the teachers and students for supporting the 'no uniform day' on Friday 13th December in aid of the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Phillipines. €905 was raised on the day.



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. Unfortunately, funding for non-DEIS schools, including our school, has been cut from January 2014. At a time of great concern nationally among all

education partners over student mental health and bullying in particular, it is hard to understand the logic behind such a decision. Please raise this issue with your local political representatives at your earliest opportunity

LITERACY AND NUMERACY

We are now in Year 1 of the school's Literacy Plan. Among the initiatives in place to promote literacy are 'Drop and Read', 'Book in the Bag' and a first year spelling competition. All first and have been given a list of fifty commonly misspelt words from various subject areas. We will be holding a spelling competition in January among first year classes. The best four spellers in each class will go forward to a final where a first year champion will be crowned. The winner will get a Kindle. We have also circulated a list of book titles suitable for teenagers to parents and we recommend to parents to consider buying books as Christmas presents. The reading board, where teachers and pupils post the titles of books they have recently read is proving very popular. Literacy now forms a key element in subject plans. A number of initiatives are under consideration to enhance whole school numeracy. 2014-15 will be Year 1 of the school's Numeracy Plan, as part of the school's self evaluation process.

AWARDS WINNERS

Well done to Shrinath Kumar who won the 2013 Leaving Cert. Student of the Year Award. This annual award is presented to the student who receives the best results in the Leaving Certificate. Well done also to Eoin O'Shea and Dillon Broaders, joint winners of the Tony Boland Award for best results in the 2013 Junior Certificate exams. Well done also to all the other T.Y./ Fifth Year students who were awarded prizes at this year's Junior Cert. Awards ceremony.

MERIT POINTS WINNERS

Well done to the students in First Year Ash, Second Year Boland and Third Year T.C.D. who remained 'booking free' since the beginning of the school year. These classes won their respective year group prize for best behaved class. Ash and Boland were rewarded with a trip to the cinema on Monday 16th December, while T.C.D. engaged in 'Asylum Airsoft' on the same date.

CHILD PROTECTION

The school's Child Protection Policy has been reviewed and adopted by the Board of Management in keeping with the terms of Department of Education and Skills Circular 0065/2011. The Department's Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools have been adopted as part of this child protection policy. A hard copy of the policy is available to any parent by request or can be viewed on the school's website www.wexfordcbs.ie . The person responsible for dealing with child protection concerns in the school is the Principal (DLP-Designated Liaison Person). In the principal's absence, this responsibility lies with the Deputy Principal (DDL-Deputy Designate Liaison Person).

FIRST YEAR 2014-15

The Board of Management offered 108 places in First Year 2014-15. 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 number to facilitate updating contact details.

SCHOOL EXCHANGES

The Transition Year/Fifth Year tour to Iona College, New York in October was a great success once again. Well done to Mrs Hayes and Mrs Breen for organising it and the eight students who travelled were tremendous ambassadors for the school. A visit to the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street on the final day capped a memorable stay for all. We will be hosting our American friends in the New Year.

Mrs Sinnott is currently planning a school exchange, in conjunction with the Loreto Secondary School, to a school in Germany. Four of our German students will travel to St. Ursula's Catholic Secondary School in Baden-Wurtemberg in south-west Germany in early February. They will experience life in a German secondary school and stay with German families for a week. The host students will be coming to Wexford in September 2014.

Preparations are well underway for the Transition Year Tour to China from 28th March to the 6th April 2014. Thirty one students and three teachers will make the trip to Beijing and X'ian for what should be a wonderful educational experience. They will visit the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace and the Terracotta Warriors. They will stay in an International School and attend classes. Opportunities to sample the local cuisine and engage in some bargain hunting will greatly enhance their understanding of Chinese life.

IMMERSION PROJECT

Fourteen students, Ms Wallace, Mr Whitty, Ms Barnwell and Fr. Whelan took part in the Immersion Project in June 2013 to Kabwe, Zambia in Africa. All the funds raised for the Project were used to help fund the building of a school for street children. Students and teachers were given the chance to travel to a developing community in Kabwe, where they helped in a hospital, visited local schools, taught and interacted with the students. The project has always been a huge success and the communities they visited greatly appreciated their work and kindness.

The teachers and students would like to thank all those who helped or contributed to the various fundraisers held in advance of the trip. Your generosity was greatly appreciated.

Find out more at

‘Like’ our Facebook page “Wexford CBS Zambia Immersion Project 2013”

‘Follow’ us on Twitter “@zambiajune2013”

Visit our website: www.cbszambia.weebly.com

CAREER GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING

CAO:

All 6th year students at this stage have received their CAO books as well as instructions from Ms. Barnwell on the application procedure. Letters were sent home in November outlining various websites such as www.careersportal.ie/parents 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 €25, students must log onto www.cao.ie and make their application before 5.15pm on January 20th. The fee will increase to €40 should a student choose to apply using the paper form. 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 if the student wishes.

Should any student suffer from a disability or a specific learning difficulty 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 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. There are certain criteria to meet for this scheme also so any student interested should consult Ms. Barnwell. More information on this can also be retrieved at www.accesscollege.ie.

Open Days and Speakers:

25 students attended WIT open day on Tuesday 10th December. It was a very beneficial day as students were able to attend various talks on courses offered in the college. They were also able to speak to current students and lecturers in order to ask any questions they may have had. On the way down to the open day we stopped into Waterford College of Further Education (WCFE), where students received information on the multitude of PLC courses on offer. They were then able to tour the campus and speak to the relevant students and teachers involved in each course. 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 good option for students who perhaps feel that they are not yet ready for the transition to 3rd level next September.

Applications for any PLC course must be made to the individual college, and most application forms can now be completed online. Towards the end of January/start of February is when students need to be applying for these courses. Any students wishing to ensure that all options are open to them next year are advised to apply for such courses. Five passes in the Leaving cert plus successful completion of an interview are the requirements for entry. The closest PLC venues are; Wexford Vocational, Enniscorthy Vocational College (EVC) and the aforementioned WCFE.

To date, the current 6th years have had speakers in school from NUI Galway, Limerick IT, DIT and UCC. A large number of students also attended the Higher options careers exhibition back in September in the RDS, Dublin. It is anticipated that speakers from IT Carlow, St.Pat's Drumcondra, and Enniscorthy Vocational College will be coming to the school to speak with 6th years in the New Year. 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.

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. 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.

GAELTACHT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Board of Management and the Parents' Council are subsidising six Gaeltacht scholarships this year to Coláiste na nOileán in Connemara. Three second year and three fifth year students will be receiving scholarships worth €690 each. For further details see the Irish subject link on the website. 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.

THIRD YEAR/T.Y OPTIONS

All Third Year students and their parents are reminded to begin focusing their options for 2014-15. Important decisions have to be made re subject choice for Fifth Year or opting for T.Y. For those looking for more details re Admissions Policy/ T.Y., please consult the school's Admissions Policy on the school website. The current Transition Year students should also begin considering subject options for the next academic year. An Information Night on T.Y./Fifth Year will be held in early March.

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 €100 this year and will be collected in early February 2014. The Junior Certificate Mock Exams fee will be €95 this year and will be collected from Monday 27th January 2014. If you wish to pay by cheque, please make the cheque payable to CBS Wexford. .

C.B.S. TALENT SHOW

Well done to all the students who took part in this year's Talent Show in the Dun Mhuire Theatre which took place on Thursday 21st November. The afternoon and evening shows were very successful. For those who failed to make the cut this year, keep practising. I would particularly like to thank Ms. Spellman and Ms. Kavanagh in particular, for the countless hours of hard work they spent with the students in auditioning, organising and rehearsing for the show. Well done to all the acts.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair held on Friday 6th December was a tremendous success huge numbers attending. I would like to thank Mrs Barry and Mr Smith for all their hard work in making the project happen. 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. The visiting children were delighted to meet Santa Claus, have their faces painted and listen to seasonal [Christmas](#) carols sung excellently by the C.B.S. Secondary School Choir under the guidance of Ms. Kavanagh. There were some wonderful products on sale and these were quickly snapped up by students and parents alike. €319.44 was raised in aid of the victims of Typhoon Haiyan on the day.

SCHOOL SAFETY

I would like to remind all students to take great care while entering or exiting the school grounds or exiting the school into the school yard. Our site is limited in terms of parking facilities so it is important that we all are vigilant and aware of the risks of vehicular traffic. The bollards have helped keep the footpath clear of parked vehicles. I would also like to remind parents dropping off students to park safely before allowing passengers get out rather than stopping in traffic and allowing passengers out.

EXTRA SUPERVISED STUDY

It is hoped to organise Supervised Study for Leaving Certificate students during the February mid-term break in advance of the Mock Exams and during the Easter holidays. Supervised Study may also be available for Junior Certificate students during the Easter holidays. Details in relation to cost/times/dates will be finalised in the New Year.

LOURDES

Fifth year students will be invited to apply to travel on the annual pilgrimages to Lourdes next term. Each year Coláiste Éamonn Rís sends four students on the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage in May and two students on the annual Easter Pilgrimage with the Irish Pilgrimage Trust.

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. Your help in enforcing this rule is greatly appreciated.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Colm Joyce-Ahearne, Sixth Year, who was selected on the Leinster Schools Under 19 Rugby squad that played Australia on Wednesday 11th December on Donnybrook. Collie entered the fray in the 66th minute and gave a commanding performance. Well done also to talented all round athlete David Mac Donald who finished second in the All Ireland multi events competition recently and was selected to represent his country in Scotland at a four nations meet on Saturday 14th December. David won the 200m in a personal best of 23.27 seconds, while the Irish four man team came second to England.

SCHOOL TEAMS

Well done to the Senior Hurling team, captained by Jamie McDonnell, on capturing the South Leinster title recently against Wicklow Colleges. Mr Howlin, Fr Brian and Willie Carley Junior are to be congratulated for their work with the panel. They played very well in the final and have been impressive all year in terms of application and attitude. Next up is the Leinster semi-final v holders Scoil Mhuire (Clane) in February. Match report and more details are available on the school website, wexfordcbs.ie. Ten of the team are on the newly formed Wexford Combined Colleges panel.

The Senior Rugby has reached the semi-final of both the League and McMullen Cup competitions. They also have qualified for the Vinny Murray Cup, playing Pres. Bray in Rd. 1.

Wexford C.B.S. are Public Speaking County Champions



Congratulations to Mr Whitty and the Wexford C.B.S. public speaking team of Jack Creane, Matthew Devereux, Eric McGuire and Ross Long, who were crowned Wexford champions for the first time in the school's history. This was our second year entering the renowned Mental Health Ireland public speaking project, which is in its 33rd year of operation. The Project aims 'to introduce students to public speaking and to promote awareness among young people of the importance of positive mental health and of the causes and effects of mental illness'.

Public speaking and debating add immensely to students' confidence. Mr Whitty and the students have put in an enormous effort researching, speech writing and learning. The boys proved that they were more than capable of competing with the best; our team defeated Presentation Wexford and St. Peter's College in a tough opening round, before they emerged victorious in the county final defeating Coláiste Abbain, Adamstown and defending champions Enniscorthy CBS in a very high quality affair. The boys have put in a tremendous effort so far this year with their research and practice. The topic our team has chosen is "In life you can't stop the waves, but you can learn how to surf them".

Mr. Whitty and the students would like to thank all teachers and students who assisted the team this year in giving them an opportunity to practice as well as providing feedback and advice to them. There is no doubt that, in years to come, those who have been part of the various teams will show the positive result of being active in public speaking and debating. The boys will now confidently look ahead to the Regional final where they will meet the winners of the Carlow and Kilkenny competitions.

SWIMMING CLUB NEWS

The CBS has a new swimming club! It was set up to promote swimming and water safety within the school. We will be doing a mixture of swimming training and lifesaving. The club will cater for the needs of all the students. Some students will be learning how to swim, some will be just keeping up their fitness levels and some will be taking part in the Leinster schools competition in January. The option to take part in the Wexford lifesaving competition in the New Year is available to students and we plan to make the Irish water safety pool lifeguard award available to students who would like to try completing it, although this is a long term aim. As the year progresses we hope to organise more friendly swimming meets with other similar teams around the country. We currently have 30 members ranging from first year to sixth year students. Our first session was Friday the 6/12/13 and we will be meeting once a week for the rest of the school year. If any students are interested in getting involved please speak to Mr. Byrne.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

School re-opens Monday January 6th January 2014

Second Year P/T Meeting Thursday 16th January 2014 4.15pm-6.45pm. Classes end at 3.45pm (to be confirmed).

First Year P/T Meeting Monday 27th January 2014 4.15pm-6.45pm. Classes end at 3.45pm (to be confirmed).

Transition Year P/T Meeting Tuesday 25th February 2014 4.15pm-6.45pm. Classes end at 3.45pm (to be confirmed).

Mid-term Break 17th – 21st February 2014 inclusively.

Junior Cert. Mock Exams Friday 7th February –Friday 14th February 2014

Leaving Cert. Mock Exams Monday 24th February 2014–Wednesday 5th March 2014.

School closed Bank Holiday Monday 18th March 2014 and Tuesday 18th March 2014

School closes on Friday 11th April 2014 for Easter Holidays.

Mar fhocal scoir,

Nollaig Shona daoibh.