

9<sup>th</sup> September 2013

Fifth Year 2013-14

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.

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 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.**
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. The fifth year year group has a year head and an assistant year head. You should address your concerns initially to the subject teacher, assistant year head 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 re changing subjects should be addressed to the Deputy Principal.  
Fifth Year Year Head: Mr. Walsh  
Fifth Year Assistant Year Head: Ms. Ivers
3. Lockers have been distributed by the Parents' Council. Any fifth year requiring a locker should contact the school caretaker.
4. 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.
5. 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 now part of the school uniform for fifth year students. 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. Please note that facial jewellery is prohibited and will be confiscated. Non uniform jackets, hoodies etc. will be confiscated.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. There is a wide range of extracurricular activities on offer in the school at lunchtime. I would encourage you to encourage your son to get involved. 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.
9. A lot of work has gone into advancing the plans for the school extension and refurbishment over the past year. On Wednesday last, the Department of Education and Skills approved the design for the school's extension and has agreed to allow the project to progress to the next stage. We hope to apply for planning permission in the next few weeks. The planning process will take at least three months to complete. We then hope to be in a position to put the project out to tender. See link on website for a preview of the outline plans.
10. As part of our literacy campaign, I would like you to 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.

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).
12. We hope to organise a study skills seminar for fifth year students in early October, costing €5 per head. The actual cost to the school is €12 per head. It is vitally important that students know how to study and I would encourage all fifth year students to avail of this opportunity to refine their study skills.
13. 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 re this service.
14. The Parents' Council is holding its A.G.M. on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September @ 7.30pm in R.11 and would be delighted to welcome new members.
15. The school will celebrate the beginning of the new school year with Mass in Bride Street church on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September @12pm. Parents are welcome to attend.
16. **Junior Certificate results are due out on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September. Results will be distributed to the students at 11.20am. Students will then be released at 11.30am. We strongly recommend that they are collected at this time. Please ensure that your son is in school on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> as classes continue as normal and time lost cannot be made up.**

Michael McMahon (Principal)