

12th September 2014

Second Year 2014-15

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I would like to bring a number of important items to your attention as your son begins his second year of 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 second year is expected to do at least two and a half hours at homework and study every evening, with some additional time over the weekend.** You are expected to sign the diary on a weekly basis. The journal also contains an Individual Merit/Reward Chart. This will be used by teachers to affirm and reward positive behaviour. I would encourage parents to monitor their son's progress in the chart and perhaps use it to build in home based rewards for your son on reaching agreed targets.

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. Each second year class has a Class Tutor. The second year year group also has a Year Head. 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.

Second Year Year Head: **Mrs Scallan**

Class Tutors:

Ash: **Ms. J. Roche**

Birch: **Mr. Ryan**

Cedar: **Mr. C. Kehoe**

Oak: **Mr. Dennehy**

Uniform

3. 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'. School jackets are an integral part of the uniform. If your son has lost his jacket he needs to replace it. Non uniform jackets, hoodies etc. will be confiscated.

Personal Property

4. 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 owners.

Personal Contacts

5. 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.

Mobile Phones

6. 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

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

Extra-Curricular Activities

8. Each class group has been assigned a classroom for lunch. There is a wide range of extracurricular activities on offer in the school at lunchtime and after school. Cycling, swimming, public speaking, Gaelic football, rugby, hurling, golf, soccer, table tennis and basketball are available so I would encourage you to encourage your son to get involved.

Nut Allergy

9. I would also like to draw your attention to the fact that a number of our students 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.

Lockers

10. Lockers have been distributed by the Parents' Council. Any second year who wishes to rent a locker should contact the school caretaker if they haven't already got a locker.

Literacy Campaign

11. As part of our literacy campaign, I would like you to encourage your son to read. Your encouragement and example in this regard continue to be vitally important in maintaining or improving your son's literacy standard. Our 'Drop Everything and Read' and 'Book in the Bag' literacy initiatives continue this year so please make sure that your son has a novel in his bag coming to school.

School Fees

12. 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 if possible. The money collected helps to ensure that the school stays on a healthy financial footing.

Attendance

13. **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.**

Child Protection

14. 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).

Parents' Council

15. The Parents' Council would like to encourage parents to become involved with the Council and new members are welcome. The first monthly meeting of the new term is scheduled for **Tuesday 23rd September @7.30pm** in Room 11. The Parents' Council AGM is scheduled for **Tuesday 7th October @ 7.30pm** in R.11.

School Mass

16. The school will celebrate the beginning of the new school year with Mass in Bride Street church on Wednesday 1st October @12pm. Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend.

Parent/Teacher Meeting

17. Please note that the Second Year Parent/Teacher meeting is scheduled for Thursday 15th January 2014.

Website

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

Career Guidance

19. Should parents have any queries regarding career, subject choice or other concerns regarding their son they may contact Ms. Barnwell directly at cbswexgc@gmail.com.

Staying on School Premises

20. As you are aware, third year students are not allowed to leave the school premises during the school day unless signed out and collected by a parent/guardian or accompanied by a teacher

Supervised Study

21. 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. Those attending Supervised Study have their journals stamped each evening.

Upcoming Events

C.B.S. Talent Show Thursday 13th November
Christmas Fair Friday 5th December
German Exchange Students 19th-26th September

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

Michael McMahon (Principal)