

12th September 2014

Third 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 third 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 third year is expected to do at least three hours study and homework 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 third year class has a Class Tutor. The third 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.

Third Year Year Head: **Mrs. Hayes**

Class Tutors:

Boland: **Mr. Davey**

Heaney: **Ms. Wallace**

Meehan: **Mr. Whitty**

Yeats: **Ms. Ivers**

Personal Property

3. Please 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.

Lockers

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

Junior Certificate Mock Exams-Dates and Fees

5. As you are aware your son will be sitting Mock Exams in February next ahead of his Junior Certificate. The Junior Certificate Mock Exams will be held prior to the February Mid-term break. While the Department of Education and Skills waive 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 Junior Certificate Mock Exam fee in 2013-2014 was €90. The fees will be collected in late January/ early February 2015.

Uniform

6. 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.

Changes in Your Contact Details-Mobile/Landline/Address

7. 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. Please also inform the school office if you change address.

Staying on School Premises

8. 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.

Nut Allergy

9. 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 issue and to further impress on him the importance of vigilance on this issue.

School Fees

10. 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.

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).

Facial Jewellery

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

Mobile Phones

13. 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.

Supervised Study

14. 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.

Attendance

15. 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.

Literacy Campaign

16. 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.

Parents' Council

17. 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

18. 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

19. Please note that the Third Year Parent/Teacher meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11th November 2014.

Website

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

Career Guidance

21. Third Years 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 subject choices in fifth year or to discuss the option of doing Transition Year. Should parents have any queries regarding career or subject choice or other concerns regarding their son they may contact Ms. Barnwell directly at cbswexgc@gmail.com.

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)