

12th September 2014

Transition 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 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 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.

Fees

5. Many thanks to all those who have paid the Transition Year fee of €350. This money helps to cover the cost of T.Y. trips, tuition fees, bus hire etc. as outlined below.

Outstanding fees are now due.

The following is a breakdown of costs for Transition Year 2014-15 and what the Transition Year fee covers:

Computer Course	€65
Insurance, photocopying etc.	€20
Gaisce (President's Award)	€10
P. E.	€35
Bus Hire	€55
Workshops	€20
School contribution to day trips	€145
TOTAL	€350

To date, the following trips/activities have been booked. There will be no extra charge for these.

Trip/Activity	Date
Ploughing Championships	24 th September
Song School Workshop	Different dates for each class
Blood Brothers @ Bord Gais	8 th October
Skiing @ Kilternan	16 th December
Adventure Alley	8 th February
Gravity	28 th March

*these dates are subject to change

€55 has already been paid and this covers the trip to Shielbaggan OEC and the overnight in Carne that has to be completed as part of the Gaisce Award.

Individual subject teachers may organise trips pertinent to their subject area during the course of the year. These are not included in the above budget and 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. **A number of students have already missed days, with a considerable number of Transition Year students absent on the day following the Carne trip and the day after the Junior Certificate results were released. This is very disappointing and I would ask parents to take a zero tolerance approach to excuses of tiredness etc. from their sons.**

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.

10. Personal Property

11. 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

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

Parent/Guardian Contact Details

13. 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

14. 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

15. 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

16. 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

17. Congratulations and well done to all our Transition Year students on their Junior Certificate results on Wednesday last.

T.Y. Open Evening

18. Please note that the Transition Year Open Evening is scheduled for Wednesday 20th May @ 7pm-10pm. This will give students the opportunity to showcase their year's efforts and give parents an opportunity to meet with the Transition Year teachers.

Website

19. 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

20. 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.

Extra-Curricular Activities

21. 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.

School Mass

22. 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.

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 and your son for the forthcoming year.
Michael McMahon (Principal)