

COLÁISTE ÉAMONN RÍS



**CHRISTMAS
NEWSLETTER 2017**

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Bhur gcéad fáilte go dtí nuachtir na Nollag 2017. 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 ongoing efforts for the benefit of all in the school. 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. We think particularly of the following who have suffered bereavement in recent weeks: the O'Callaghan family, Barntown, on the death of Colm, father of Fionn (First Year Picasso); the Heffernan family, Rosslare, on the death of Tony, father of Noel (T.Y.); Mrs Caroline O'Brien and her family on the death of her mother Margaret.

THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The school's current Board of Management has just commenced its first year of a three year term. The Board consists of eight members. Four are Trustee representatives; Mr. Gerry Forde (Chairperson), Mr. Jim Hurley, Mr Dara Lynott and Miss Ann Walsh. Two are teachers' representatives; Mr. Sean Hurley and Mrs Ann Barry. Two are parents' representatives; Mrs Joan Crean and Mr. Anthony Roche. The Board has recently reviewed the school's Admissions Policy. It will be reviewing the school's Anti-bullying Policy and Child Protection Policy in early 2017.

THE PARENTS' COUNCIL

The Parents' Council A.G.M. was held on 26th September 2017. The officers elected at the A.G.M. were as follows: Fiona Saunders (Chairperson), Charlotte Creane (Secretary), Yvonne Eaves (Treasurer). Committee: Joan Crean, Abina Moore, Anthony Roche, Tracey Kehoe, Caroline Busher, Alison Kavanagh, Paula Fenlon, Colette Black, Brigitte McLoughlin, Karol Jackson, Lynda Harman, Frances Kehoe, Chris White, Geraldine Farrell, Gabrielle Brennan, Paul Brennan, Geraldine Merrigan, John Morgan, Maria Reck, Mary Reck, Jenny O'Keeffe and Melanie Carroll. However, the Chairperson and Secretary have since stepped down so these positions will have to be filled in early January. I would like to thank both Fiona and Charlotte for their work in their respective roles in the Council over the past number of years. The Council donated €650 towards the Fifth Year Study Seminars held in September.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and Safety is of primary importance so I would ask all parent(s)/guardian(s) once again to impress on their sons(s) the importance of obeying all Health and Safety regulations pertaining to the site and not to enter the construction site under any circumstances. I would like to remind all students, parents and staff to take great care while entering or exiting the school grounds.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL 2017-18



The Students' Council is the representative body for all students in the school. The body was elected from the student cohort in September. It meets regularly to discuss school matters. The 2017-18 Students' Council members are as follows: Ryan Kavanagh, Ryan Healy, Conor Brennan, Angelo Miculescu, Abdullah Azam, Cormac Sinnott, Jason Kelly, Darragh Collins, Fionn O'Callaghan, Adam McGuire, Philip Cullen, Ryan McLoughlin, Dean Cashe, Quintin Kelly, Dermot Ryan, Josh Porter, Taofik Kotum and Matthew Colgan.

MERIT SHEET

As part of the school's emphasis on positive affirmation, students gain merits for the various ways they have achieved or contributed to school life. The merit sheets are filling up in many students' journals so parents are asked to keep a check on how their son is progressing and affirm appropriately.

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 and also provides leadership opportunities for our senior students. I would like to thank the students who have volunteered for these

leadership and pastoral roles this year and commend them for their work to date. The Meitheal Awards day will take place on Tuesday 16th January 2018. Our 2017-18 Meitheal leaders are as follows: Kyle Long, Luke Dowdall, Diarmuid McDonald, Ryan McLoughlin, Angelo Miculescu, Adam Dempsey, Aaron Smith, Ultan Warren, Darragh Whelan, David Corish Adam McGuire and Martin Kehoe. I would like to thank Mr Purcell for his work in co-ordinating the programme.

CUMANN ÉAMONN RÍS

The Peace and Justice Society is now in its third year. It continues to support the vision of Blessed Edmund Rice in the school and in society with a particular emphasis on social justice. The members of the society are linked closely with the SVP conference in the school and fund raise on their behalf.

The key focus of for us this year is in the promotion of awareness of the fact that more than 25 million girls around the world each year never access primary education. On a wider scale the organisation EREBB (Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders) has come to the school for the first time. This is an international organisation linking CBS schools around the world. We have been in contact with schools from Ireland, England, U.S.A., Peru, India, South Africa and Australia. It is hoped to elect an Edmund Rice ambassador to link up with counterparts around the world to promote social justice and work together in advocacy work for the education of these 25 million.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The Coláiste Éamonn Rís St.Vincent de Paul Conference has been active since September, meeting weekly to discuss their goals and fundraising ideas for the coming year. The group decided on carol singing as their Christmas fundraiser. They spent their lunch times throughout November practicing and on Friday 8th of December they went to Tesco's in Wexford, who very kindly gave permission for the group to perform in the store. They entertained customers and staff with their wonderful festive singing. During the few hours of their carol service they collected over €500 from very generous customers.

The committee were also able to run a food drive thanks to a very kind donation from Mr. Joe Ryan. The food donated and the money collected from the carol singing went to Ozanam House, Wexford. The group felt that this was a very worthy charity within the local community and were delighted to be able to help out, especially at this time of year which can be difficult for some. Students have also been involved in various concerts, where they are making people aware of the work they are doing as a committee.

The group will continue to work together in 2018 and be involved in the local community helping out where they can and bringing awareness to the great work of St. Vincent de Paul. Committee members have come up with many excellent fundraising ideas for the coming year. They're a great bunch of lads that are giving up their free time to help make a difference in the local community, and we wish them all the best for the coming year.



JUNIOR CYCLE

New subject specifications have been implemented in the following subject areas: English (First Year 2014-15), Science and Business Studies (First Year 2016-17), Gaeilge, French, German and Visual Art (First year 2017-18). New subject specifications are planned for First Year 2018-19 in Maths, History, Music and Geography. The various subject specifications are also available on the jct.ie website. The focus in these documents is now very much on learner outcomes rather than content. For further information on the new JC, go to jct.ie/publications/Junior Cycle for Teachers-Parents Information Leaflet/ Primary and Post Primary. Both these documents are also available on the school website. Students who sat the Junior Certificate in 2017 will have their JCPA (Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement) issued early in 2018.

NEW LEAVING CERTIFICATE SUBJECT

The DES is planning to introduce P.E. as a Leaving Certificate subject for the first time in September 2018, firstly on a trial basis and then rolling it out as an option in all schools in 2020. We have applied to the DES be considered for inclusion as a Pilot school which would mean the subject's availability here in September 2018 if we are selected. We will not know until late January 2018 if we have been selected to take part in the Pilot.

WELLBEING

The Framework for Junior Cycle (2015) provides for a new area of learning at junior cycle called Wellbeing. Wellbeing crosses the three years of junior cycle and build on the substantial work already taking place in the school in support of students' wellbeing. This area of learning will make the school's culture and ethos and commitment to wellbeing more visible to students. It also includes learning opportunities to enhance the physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing of students. It will enable students to build life skills and develop a strong sense of connectedness to the school and their community. The junior cycle Wellbeing programme has begun with 300 hours of timetabled engagement planned across the three years for First Years starting in 2017-18 and this will build up to 400 hours by 2020. We will be reviewing our provision for students in the coming weeks. To this end a Wellbeing committee comprising of teachers, parents and students will review policies and practices in the school in order to put a plan in place. Information will be sought from teachers, parents and students by way of online surveys as part of the process. Your co-operation and participation would be greatly appreciated.

SCHOOL RE-DEVELOPMENT

The school re-development work is almost at an end, with nearly all internal work complete. Some work remains to be done on the school wall and set down area at the front of the building and on the car park on the Bride Street side of the building. We hope to take possession of the new building after the February mid-term break. The process of moving in will pose a considerable logistical challenge. To facilitate the process while minimising loss of teaching time, I propose the following arrangements for 8th and 9th February:

First and Second Years will have no school;

Third and Sixth Years will be sitting their Mock exams;

T.Y. and Fifth Years will be helping with moving furniture and equipment.

Please note that these proposals are provisional and are subject to confirmation as the date of handover may change depending on factors beyond our control.

The CBS Primary School will then be decanting to the temporary accommodation currently being occupied by the secondary school while their school is being refurbished. The redevelopment work on the CBS Primary should take about nine months to complete. Once this is finished, the temporary accommodation will be removed from the school playing field. We hope to then to develop an all-weather pitch on the vacated property. Much fund raising will be required to fund this development.

WHOLE SCHOOL EVALUATION-MANAGEMENT, LEADERSHIP AND LEARNING

We have had a follow up inspection from the DES to examine progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the WSE-MLL- Whole School Inspection-Management, Leadership and Learning, conducted by inspectors from the Department of Education and Skills in November 2014. The inspector's verbal feedback to management on

her findings was very positive. We await the written report in the near future and look forward to its publication.

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION

School Self-Evaluation (Literacy, Numeracy, Teaching and Learning)

Our second three-year SSE-Literacy SIP (School Improvement Plan) is now in place and is available on the school website. Many of the initiatives undertaken are still in place such as 'Drop and Read', 'Book in the Bag' and a First Year spelling competition. First, Second and Third Year students were recently circulated with a list of reading material worth purchasing for their parents perusal. The list is also available on the school website www.wexfordcbs.ie. All First Years have been given a list of fifty commonly misspelt words from various subject areas. We will be holding a spelling competition in early 2018 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. The reading board, where teachers and pupils post the titles of books they have recently read, is still proving very popular.

Our first three year SIP (Numeracy) has now run its course and the review process is underway. We will use the knowledge garnered over the last three years to further enhance numeracy standards in the school with a view to putting a new three SIP (Numeracy) in place.

A School Improvement Plan- Teaching and Learning (SIP) is also now in place following on from the SSE process on the same theme. It focuses on a number of areas with a view to improving the quality of teaching and learning in the school

DEBATING

Our school debating society is having a very successful and enjoyable year so far. Our Senior debate team have competed in three debates so far in the Concern competition. The lads have one more debate against St. Peter's College in January which they will need to win to progress in the competition but our young team have given a great account of themselves so far picking up points in each of their three debates concerning topics all related to the plight of the Third World. Our Junior teams this year have been fantastic in the UCD Leinster Junior Schools competition. Both of our first year teams in the competition have won debates against schools from all over Leinster. The competition works on a league format before selecting the top 32 teams to progress to the knockout phase after Christmas and it looks like two of our teams have done enough to make it to that stage. This is an incredible achievement for 1st year students as they are generally debating against 2nd and 3rd year students from all over the province so this experience will stand to them. Ronan Brennan, Darragh Sinnott, Finn Baneham and Sam Hoffheinz are members of the respective 1st year teams who are likely to progress. There is a huge interest in debating in 1st year this year and we regularly organise debates against our neighbours St. Peter's College and Presentation Wexford. This debating experience has been both enjoyable and valuable in terms of learning for all fourteen of our first year students who have taken part. Thank you to Mr Whitty, Ms Davey and Ms Henneberry who have transported the participating students to various venues across the province in the last number of weeks.

STAY STRONG WEEK

This annual event promoting positive mental health will be held from Monday 5th –Friday 9th March 2018. A number of initiatives focusing on keeping well in body and mind will be undertaken. We are currently finalising the programme.

AWARDS WINNERS

Well done to Graeme Smyth who won the 2017 Leaving Certificate Student of the Year Award. This annual award is presented to the student who receives the best results in the Leaving Certificate. He is currently studying Computer Science and Business in Trinity College. Graeme is a past-pupil of Glynn N.S. Graeme was presented with a silver pen and a cheque by the P.P.U. to mark his achievement.

Well done also to David McDonnell, winner of the Tony Boland Award for best results in the 2017 Junior Certificate exams. Well done also to all the other T.Y. / Fifth Year students who were awarded prizes at this year's Junior Certificate Awards Evening: Joe Barrett, Richard Brown, Ciarán Carthy, Reuben Deane, Christopher Flood, Ciarán Fox, Manus Harte, Dean Healy-Morris, Riley Kohl, Richard Lawlor, Paul Leonard, Adam Mahon, Tomás MacIntyre, Sam McQuaid, Glen Murphy-Butler, Andrew Mythen, Shane O'Leary, Rory O'Shea, Brian Roche, Cormac Sinnott, Ian Sweetman, Kaelan Zipoli, Adam Feery, Adam Kehoe, Eoin Kehoe, Wen Geng Lin, Shane McGuinness, Aaron O'Connor, Shane O'Neill, Jakub Pakula, Pedro Roche, Dakota Rossi, Eon Corish, Jack Cunningham, Ruairí Fenlon, Adam Kavanagh, Adam Moriarty, Joshua Porter, Mason Power, Michael Snatchev, Rowan Wadding-Hayes. Thank you to Mrs Sinnott for organising the evening and to Mrs Margaret Boland for making the presentations on the night.

CHILD PROTECTION

The Minister for Children and Youth Affairs has commenced the remaining provisions of the [Children First Act, 2015](#) from 11 December 2017. The [Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017](#) published on 2 October 2017 also became operational on 11 December 2017.

The Children First Act, 2015 provides for a number of key child protection measures that are relevant to schools, as follows:

- A requirement on organisations provided services to children, which includes all schools, to keep children safe and to produce a Child Safeguarding Statement;
- A requirement on defined categories of persons (mandated persons), which includes registered teachers, to report child protection concerns over a defined threshold to the Child and Family Agency (Tusla);
- A requirement on mandated persons which includes registered teachers, to assist Tusla in the assessment of a child protection risk, if so requested to do so by Tusla.

The commencement of the Children First Act, 2015 and the publication of the new Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017 has necessitated changes to the existing Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools.

The Department of Education and Skills circular 0081/2017 (published on 11 December, 2017) informs school management authorities that new [Child Protection Procedures for](#)

[Primary and -Primary Schools 2017](#) have been developed and published following an extensive consultation with the education partners.

The purpose of the new procedures is to give clear direction and guidance to school authorities and to school personnel in relation to meeting the new statutory obligations under the Children First Act, 2015 and in the continued implementation within the school setting of the best practice guidance set out in the updated Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017.

The new [Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017](#) include-

- a) the reporting procedures to be followed by registered teachers in respect of their role as mandated persons, including a requirement to liaise with the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and, where applicable, to submit mandated reports jointly with the DLP to Tusla
- b) guidance and direction for schools in relation to meeting their statutory obligations in relation to Child Safeguarding Statements. In that regard, the procedures require that all boards of management use templates published by the Department when preparing, publishing and reviewing their Child Safeguarding Statement.
- c) enhanced oversight measures which are aimed at ensuring full compliance by schools with the Children First Act 2015, Children First National Guidance 2017 and with the Department's requirements as set out in the procedures for schools.

All of the requirements of the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017, apart from those relating to a school's Child Safeguarding Statement, apply to all school personnel and school authorities with **effect from 11 December 2017**.

From **11 March 2018** the requirement to have a Child Safeguarding Statement replaces the previous requirement to have a child protection policy which was in place under the previous Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools published in 2011.

FIRST YEAR 2018-19

The Board of Management offered 108 places in First Year 2018-19. 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 mobile or landline numbers or address to facilitate updating contact details.

GERMAN SCHOOL EXCHANGE

Mrs Sinnott is currently planning a school exchange, in conjunction with the Loreto Secondary School, to a school in Germany. Six of our German students will travel to St. Ursula's Catholic Secondary School in Baden-Wurtemberg in south-west Germany from 1st-8th February 2018. They will experience life in a German secondary school and will be hosted by German families for the duration of their stay.

NEW YORK EXCHANGE



Colaiste Éamonn Rís Takes a Bite Out the Big Apple

Our sixth New York exchange took place this past November with Iona Prep High School in New Rochelle, New York. Jack Cunningham, Jake Cunningham, Eoin Kehoe, Joseph Kennedy, Reece Mahon, Adam Minicucci, Cormac Sinnott, Mr. Nolan and Mrs. Hayes saw the sights and sounds of the city that never sleeps. They rested their heads in Jersey City, New Jersey for two nights and it was an ideal location as the PATH train took seven minutes to the World Trade Center. The excitement began with dinner in a restaurant with a sports jersey theme. There were jerseys hanging from the entire ceiling, yes Wexford was represented. The evening ended with bright lights, big city, seen from the top of the Empire State Building! Saturday morning began down at the 9/11 Memorial Museum. Arriving up from the subway they entered the Oculus, the new transportation hub and shopping mall and walked out to the very peaceful gardens and fountains of the Twin Towers Memorial. The museum was a very moving remembrance of the event that affected so many people across the world.

Over the next two days they visited Wall St, New York Stock Exchange, Battery Park, with a beautiful view of Lady Liberty, South Street Seaport, Brooklyn Bridge, The Intrepid- Sea, Air and Space Museum and Highline Park. They took in a Broadway show – *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and stood amongst the lights of Times Square.

Sunday saw the group head up to New Rochelle and their hosts at Iona Prep. The exchange began as they went home to become part of their American families. They enjoyed four days in school attending classes and then everyone, students and teachers, took in a Rangers ice hockey game in Madison Square Garden. The week ended with a lovely service in the school chapel celebrating the two Edmund Rice schools.

CHINA TOUR

Preparations are well underway for the Transition Year Tour to China from 10th March – 23rd March 2018. Thirty one students and three teachers will make the trip this year. The group will fly to Beijing and after spending some time there will then travel on to Shanghai. They will visit the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace as well as experiencing Chinese cuisine and culture at first hand.

FIRST YEAR TOUR TO POLAND

Preparations are well advanced for the forthcoming First Year tour to Krakow from 6th February-10th February 2018.

PERCENT FOR ART

Following collaboration with the various partners within the school community a number of works have been commissioned by the Board of Management under the Percent for Art scheme. Ms Aileen Lambert is co-ordinating the Percent for Art Scheme on behalf of the Board of Management. Artist Fiona Murphy from Kells, Co. Meath has been commissioned to carry out the work and she is currently hard at work on the various strands of the project.

GAELTACHT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Board of Management and the Parents' Council are subsidising six Gaeltacht scholarships again this year to Coláiste na nOileán in Connemara. Three Second Year and three Fifth Year students will be receiving scholarships worth €700 each. For further details see the Irish subject link on the website or contact your son's Irish teacher. 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.

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 €110 this year and will be collected in advance of the exams by Ms Power. The Junior

Certificate Mock Exams fee will also be €110 this year and will be collected by Mrs Scallan on week of 22nd January 2018. If you wish to pay by cheque, please make the cheque payable to C.B.S. Wexford. The Mock Exams for both Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate students will be held from February 2nd - 9th 2018.

CYCLE AGAINST SUICIDE

As part of the 5 years we are carrying out to gain once again the Cycle Against Suicide School Ambassador Award, the students of TY participated in a workshop which revolved around a film-documentary called The Mask You Live In. The film focused on young male adolescents and how masculinity impacted upon their daily lives growing up. After watching the film a worksheet and discussion forum was held within each class group where the issues that arose were analysed and commented upon.

These activities formed the ground work for the Empower Your Voice speech bubbles. Students completed these orange bubbles with words of advice or a visual image that expressed how young people can use their voice in times of struggle. Both perspectives, from looking in trying to give help and looking out trying to seek help, were captured. The speech bubbles are displayed along the corridors.

Following this 3 TY students Pedro Roche, filming and editor, Jack Byrne, interviewer and Com Barron, interviewer, organised reflection interviews with their fellow TYs. This video highlighted key learning outcomes and how the students engaged with the project. We have submitted this video to Cycle Against Suicide as a potential project for display at the annual Schools Congress in Dublin January 2018.

Well done all TYs for their engagement in this workshop on promoting positive mental health. Thanks to Mr Gannon, Ms McGrath, Ms Breen and Ms Ivers for their co-operation.

C.B.S. TALENT SHOW

Auditions have taken place and preparations are well under way for this year's event. The date for the Talent Show has yet to be finalised.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair held on Friday 8th December in St. Michael's Hall, was a tremendous success again this year with good numbers attending. I would like to thank Mrs Barry, Ms McGrath and Ms Martin for all their hard work in making the project happen and ensuring the smooth running of events during the course of the day. 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.

NO-UNIFORM DAY

Thank you to all who contributed to our no-uniform collection on Friday 8th December. €1000 was raised for Wexford Special Olympics.

EXTRA SUPERVISED STUDY

It is hoped to organise Supervised Study for Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate students during the Easter holidays. Details in relation to cost/times/dates will be finalised in the New Year.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGES

Fifth year students will be invited to apply to travel on the annual pilgrimages to Lourdes early in 2018. Each year Coláiste Éamonn Rís sends four students on the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage in May. Two students will be selected to travel with the IHCPT (Irish Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust) pilgrimage to Lourdes during the Easter holidays. Students interested should speak to Mr Gannon for further details.

WEXFORD JUNIOR COUNCIL

We are once again taking part in an initiative involving Wexford County Council and the five other secondary schools in the Wexford Borough i.e. Selskar College, St. Peter's College, Loreto, Presentation and Bridgetown V.C., aimed at promoting citizenship, raising awareness of the work of the Council, giving young people an opportunity to influence policy development at Council level. Each school elects representatives from the student body to the Junior Council, drawn from their T.Y. or Fifth Year cohorts. This year we have five representatives, two outgoing and three new members. Marcin Bryla and Daniel Tsapchuk have stepped down after their year and I would like to thank them for their work over the past year. This year eight T.Y. candidates put their names forward for the vacant positions so an election was held based on the P.R. model, used in general and local elections. This gave the students an early introduction to voting using PR, with the various counts taking place in front of the students. Officials from Wexford County Council officiated and explained each step in the process as we went to five counts, various eliminations, candidates reaching the quota etc. Well done to the successful candidates and also very well done to the unsuccessful candidates who courageously put their names forward for inclusion on the ballot paper. Our representatives for 2017-18: Dan Hendrick and Eoin Bergin (both outgoing), Eoin Kehoe, Thomas O'Keeffe and Cormac Sinnott.

CAREER GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

We are one of the schools chosen by the NCGE to take part in the NCGE Whole School Guidance Framework: Pilot Project.

CAO/PLCs & Careers:

All 6th year students at this stage have received their CAO books as well as instructions from Ms. Barnwell on the application procedure. Further to this, a parent's information evening was held on Monday 6th November, 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 €30, students must log onto www.cao.ie and make their application before 5.15pm on January 20th 2018. The fee will increase to €45

should a student choose to apply using the paper form or apply between 20th January and February 1st. 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 free of charge if the student wishes from May 5th right up until July 1st 2018. A most helpful website in relation to careers and course searching is www.careersportal.ie . This website also has a specific section for Parents/Guardians in relation to guiding the process of career and course choice for their child.

Should any student suffer from a disability, specific learning difficulty, ongoing illness or mental health condition 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 and supports 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 or who come from a family/area where college attendance is not the norm. There are certain criteria to meet for this scheme also so any student interested should consult Ms. Barnwell. Important to note is that not all colleges participate in these schemes. For example, WIT and IT Carlow have their own access routes which require filling out additional forms. Additional and comprehensive information on all of the above can be found on www.accesscollege.ie . The deadline for form submission in relation to these routes is April 1st and intention to apply for these routes must be indicated on the online CAO form by March 1st.

Open Days and Speakers:

50 students attended the Higher options conference in the RDS back in September. This was an invaluable day of information gathering. Students were able to speak to representatives of the colleges they are considering and also attended talks on various career sectors. 17 students also attended the Open day in The Solas Waterford training centre on the 22nd November. Here students were able to learn about the various apprenticeships on offer. It is proposed that we will also attend WIT Open Day on January 19th. In addition, we will stop into WCFE (Waterford centre of further education) on the way to help students learn about post leaving cert course options as an alternative to the CAO. Students will be informed on this in due course.

A list of all open days and college events can be found on www.qualifax.ie in their events calendar on the home page. Students are strongly encouraged to attend weekend events in their own time in order to help with the college decision-making process.

To date we have had speakers in from the following institutions to speak to 6th years regarding potential options;

DCU, UCD, NUI Maynooth, IT Carlow, WIT and Enniscorthy Vocational College.

In the New Year, speakers from UL and Carlow College have been scheduled. There will be further speakers throughout the year and 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.

Post-Leaving Certificate courses:

If you've finished your secondary education and are thinking about developing vocational or technological skills to get a job, a Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) course could be for you. They are designed as a step towards skilled employment and so they are closely linked to industry and its needs.

PLCs are based on an integrated approach, focusing on technical knowledge, core skills and work experience.

Who are they for?

PLCs are sometimes seen as just available to school-leavers, but you can also attend as an adult participant. The courses are full-time and last for one to two years, offering a mixture of "hands-on" practical work, academic work and work experience.

They can also be a way to step into further third-level education, such as diplomas or undergraduate degrees.

Nearly half the time spent on these courses is devoted to knowledge and skill-training related to employment, with a quarter of the time spent on relevant work-based experience.

What subjects are covered?

Over 90% of PLC courses are delivered by VECs (vocational education committees). Each county or region has its own VEC and currently over 1,000 courses are on offer in some 229 centres.

A wide range of disciplines are covered including business, electronics engineering, computing, catering, sport and leisure, theatre and stage, performance art, art craft and design, equestrian studies, multi-media studies, journalism, tourism, marketing, childcare and community care, hairdressing and beauty care, applied science, horticulture etc.

Qualifications

Many of the one-year PLC courses offer Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC) accreditation at level 5. More advanced courses may offer FETAC level 6, which can lead to further studies at third level.

Other qualifications such as City and Guilds are also available. Check out the qualification attached to a particular course before you apply.

PLC Grants

A maintenance grant scheme for PLC is available. The maintenance scheme is means-tested and grants are paid along the same lines as the current third level student support scheme. Grant applications are available from local VECs.

How to apply

In general, you should have finished your secondary education and taken your Leaving Certificate examination in order to be eligible for a PLC course.

Find the course in which you're most interested and apply directly to the school or college offering that course. Because the courses are work-related, you could be called for an interview before final selection.

These interviews are often quite informal, offering you the chance to discuss your interest.

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 very strong option for students who are not yet ready to make the full transition from Secondary school to 3rd level.

**** Note:** PLCs have a totally independent process of application from the CAO. Should a student wish to apply for a PLC, they must make an application to the relevant college as it is not a centralised procedure. The process of gaining entry to a PLC is the need to attain at least 5 passes in the Leaving cert as well as successful completion of a short interview. Points are not required. There is a PLC section on www.careersportal.ie . The majority of PLC applications are now done online and deadlines vary from January to February.

Careers Appointments:

All 6th year students have been encouraged to schedule at least 1 careers appointment prior to the CAO deadline with the majority having done so. However there are still a very number of students I have not yet seen and so I would encourage parents/guardians to have them make an appointment immediately after the Christmas break. Any queries may be directed to Ms. Barnwell @ cbswexgc@gmail.com . Students requiring follow ups from their first meeting are also encouraged to do the same.

SUSI Grants:

All students in 6th year have the option of making a grant application to SUSI in ordering to obtain financial assistance for 3rd level. This is generally done in May and applications cannot be made prior to this. Once the latest information becomes available I will be delivering this to the various 6th year groups. In the meantime, parents/guardians may investigate the likelihood of being eligible on www.susi.ie . Once you log on, simply select the 'grant process' tab at the top of the homepage. In addition, you may select the 'eligibility' tab. This will help with deciding whether to apply.

3rd Year/TY Subject Choice:

Ms. Barnwell will be conducting a number of information sessions with all 3rd year and Transition year groups during February/March. The purpose of these sessions will be to inform students of their options moving forward in terms of subject choice/LCVP programme and TY programme (for 3rd years). An information night will also be held for parents/guardians of same in order to answer any queries that may arise. The new points system will also be discussed at this information evening. A comprehensive booklet will be given to each student outlining each subject's content as well as the implications of subject choices for 3rd level courses. Once all of the material has been distributed, students are welcomed to make a one-to-one appointment if needs be in order to discuss their own particular situation if they are confused as to what to choose. They will then complete a form indicating their subject choices in order of preference. This form will likely be due back prior to the Easter holidays.

TY Careers 2017/2018:

All Transition years have had a weekly class to date in careers. The main focus of the first terms was on CV and cover letter writing. All students in each of the 4 groups should now be able to produce these documents confidently.

As part of college awareness week, all TY groups had a talk from David Power WIT. David works in the IT arena and is very knowledgeable on all courses in that field, a field in which there are huge employment opportunities. In addition, 2 groups were brought up to the Wexford campus of IT Carlow in order to gain insight into life at 3rd level.

Counselling:

The counselling service within the school is an inclusive one which is available to all students. This is a private and confidential service which allows students to experience a safe place in which to discuss any issues they may be experiencing.

Sharing a problem is strongly encouraged by the guidance and counselling department so as to deal with it as quickly and effectively as possible. Simply talking and sharing can be of huge benefit to a student who is under emotional pressure. With the range of difficult issues that teenagers can face these days, it is of utmost importance that they seek help as soon as possible if they feel they are not coping well. We often think that admitting struggle is a sign of weakness, but we all struggle sometimes. We all get overwhelmed sometimes. We all need help sometimes. Acknowledging this is not a sign of weakness.

Bearing the above in mind, there are numerous ways to make an appointment with the Guidance Counsellor (Ms. Barnwell). Students may self refer by simply calling to the office and asking to schedule an appointment. They may ask a trusted teacher to organise an appointment for them if they feel reluctant/unable to do so themselves. Alternatively, parents/guardians may contact Ms. Barnwell directly via phone (school number) or email @ cbswexgc@gmail.com to discuss any concerns they may have or to arrange a meeting.

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 for all years. Those wearing non-uniform jackets will have them confiscated. Students presenting out of uniform are in breach of the school's Code of Behaviour and will have sanctions imposed, up to and including being sent home. Your help in enforcing the wearing of the uniform is greatly appreciated. Lost jackets can be retrieved from the 'Lost and Found' press. Parents and students should ensure that the student's name is marked on the jacket. Jackets are available to buy from Hore's Stores. The school has a limited supply of small and medium jackets left in stock.

SPORT

ATHLETICS

Well done to all the runners who competed recently at the county schools cross country in New Ross. Firstly in the Minor boys race, the CBS team made up of Tadhg Hayes, Fionn O'Callaghan, Alex Gregg and Stephen McDonnell took team bronze. In the Junior boys race the school also secured a team bronze medal. The Junior boys team included Jack Dempsey who finished 6th overall, Nicolai Tcaci who finished in 10th place overall, Andrew Moran and Chris Ryan. In the Intermediate boys race the school took home a team gold and team bronze with Sean White, Conor Keane, Darragh Collins and Rian Doyle all finishing inside the top 10. Finally the Senior boys team consisting of Paul Freeman, Padraic Jordan, Aaron O'Connor and Nathan Barron helped secure another team gold medal for the school and in the process guaranteeing the school took home the trophy for top secondary school in the county.

Well done to all the other athletes who contributed to the school's success throughout the year with the highlight of the year being the senior relay team (David McDonald, Aaron Smith, Luke O'Neill & Sam O'Neill) being crowned All Ireland champions in Tullamore in June. Finally congratulations to Jack Forde who represented Ireland recently and won gold for Ireland at the British and Irish schools combined events championships.



HURLING

It has been a busy start to the academic year 2017/2018 and there's plenty to look forward to after Christmas.

Senior Hurling: CBS started off the year with a comfortable win over Ramsgrange CS by 1-21 to 1-9 and we needed a last gasp goal from Jason Gordon to see off Bridgetown VS by 5-5 to 2-13 in the final group game. This meant that we topped the group and had earned a home quarter-final v Colaiste Bhride (Carnew). We were behind to the Carnew students at half-time by 0-6 to 0-5 after playing against the strong wind. Jack O'Leary's accurate free taking and a super save before the break from Adam Howlin kept us in the game. We got on top in the second half and ended up winners by 3-11 to 1-8. We have a home semi-final v Callan CBS to come in January. Wexford CBS was also well represented by Jack O'Leary, Adam Howlin, Philip Rawson and Aaron Clancy on the Wexford Combined Schools team who unfortunately lost to Dublin North in the Leinster SHC 'A' championship in November.

Junior Hurling: After winning the Juvenile 'C' championship two years ago, CBS have been playing at 'B' level in Junior and this year the school qualified for the knock-out stages of a 'B' championship for the first time in 25 years. We faced home games against Gorey CS (eventual Leinster champions) and Enniscorthy CBS which we lost while we picked up the points on the road v Wicklow Schools. We finished in third position in the group and this resulted in CBS travelling to Laois to take on Heywood CS in the quarter-final and unfortunately they were too strong for us.

First Year Hurling: This is the first year that Leinster Council organised this competition and we were drawn in a group with Colaiste Bhride (Carnew) and Callan CBS in Division 3. We topped our group after two wins and earned a home semi-final v Pres De La Salle Bagnalstown which we won comfortably. The panel of 27 are training hard on the school's new Hurling Wall in preparation for the Leinster final v Cistercian College Roscrea in January.

We also sent two teams to participate in a County First Year Blitz in Ferns in October.

Juvenile Hurling: This championship starts in February and the team will take part in the 'B' championship alongside Gorey CS, Enniscorthy CBS and FCJ Bunclody. The squad (containing many of the talented first years) are busy training and have already played some challenge matches against St. Peter's College. **Rice Cup:** The school will participate in the prestigious Edmund Rice Cup (under-14) in Kilkenny in March. **Coaches:** Thanks to Mr Brosnan and Mr Blake for their time and effort with the school teams and also to Wexford GAA coaches Willie Cleary, Shane O'Hanlon, Eoin Morrissey and Ray Harris who visit the school and take training sessions at regular intervals.

Let's hope we win some silverware in 2018!



SOCCKER

It has been a relatively successful year so far for the Bokerboys on the soccer field. Our senior team beat Borris V.C and Arklow CBS before bowing out of the Leinster senior cup to St Kieran's Kilkenny in the last 16 beaten 3-2 on the day. This was a huge disappointment for our senior side who completely dominated the game in terms of possession and creating chances but learned a harsh lesson about taking your chances. They have bounced back well in the league defeating Gorey C.S, Carnew and Arklow CBS once again on a 7-1 scoreline to win their group and qualify for the semi-final after Christmas where they aim to reclaim their league title.

Our under 17 side were eliminated in the first round of the cup by an excellent Enniscorthy CBS side, they have responded well in the league defeating Gorey C.S 3-1 and then drawing with Enniscorthy CBS after a huge improvement in performance from their first day out. Those results saw them win the group on goal difference and as a result they also have qualified for the semi-final stage of the league.

Our under 15 team made up mostly of last year's super 1st year squad won their first Leinster cup game away to Greystones but were shocked to be defeated on penalties to Colaiste Cill Mhantain in the 2nd round and just like their older colleagues have responded well defeating Gorey C.S 3-0 and Arklow CBS 6-1 to win their group and go straight to the semi-final stage of the league.

Our new 1st year crop are developing well and showing a great effort in training, they were cruelly defeated 2-1 with a last minute goal by Oatlands College from Dublin in the 1st round of the cup and have since been defeated by Gorey C.S in the league but are training hard in preparation to face Enniscorthy CBS and Carnew in the league after the break, Our 1st year futsal side were defeated in the county semi-final by eventual all Ireland finalists Good Counsel College. So overall our cup dreams unfortunately have come to a premature end this year but all teams are in contention to win Wicklow Wexford league titles and are playing some stylish football and representing our school on the highest stage.

GAELIC FOOTBALL

The senior footballers have reached the South Leinster C semi-final. In the quarter final they had a very good win over Tullow CS on a score line of 6 – 17 to 2- 04. Leon Nolan, Jack O'Leary, Cian Foley, Jamie Thomas, Todd Hynes and Cathal Kirwan all played well. The team is training away and their semi-final opponents have yet to be decided.

The junior footballers have progressed into the South Leinster C quarter final. They lost their first game to Presentation De La Salle Bagenalstown but a draw against Tullow CS meant that the team qualified on score difference. There have been good displays from Kyle Scallan, Jason Gordan, Oisin Waters, Josh Murphy, Richie Lawlor, Eoin Foley and Cian Connolly.

Juvenile Football News

We made progress on the playing fields this year by winning our group and progressing to the Quarter Final of the South Leinster Championship. Our campaign opened with an impressive win away to DLS Bagenalstown. We followed this up with a well earned draw against Tullow CS. In a topsy turvy game Jack Foley levelled matters with an excellent '45 in the dying seconds of the match. Another strong performance and victory against the Pres Carlow meant we topped our group and progressed to play Portlaoise CBS in Ferns Centre of

Excellence. Unfortunately we came up against a very strong outfit and despite our lads battling hard it wasn't to be our day and our campaign came to a finish. The boys can be very proud of their performances and we thank them for their efforts this year.

1st Yr Football News

The boys had a very enjoyable day in Pairc Charman at the annual 1st Year Football Blitz. We were delighted to be able to enter two teams such was the level of interest. On the day we seen some great performances against strong opposition and the boys were a credit to work with.

This year a new 1st Year competition is being run in South Leinster so training will start in the New Year. Training times will be announced on the GAA noticeboard and also on the School's Facebook page.

BASKETBALL

It has been a very successful season in basketball. After a few years absence from the national tournament both senior and junior teams entered into the competition with hopes of doing well. Drawn against Creagh College, Bunclody V.C. and St. Peter's College both teams had a county title as a target.

Seniors

The seniors started the year with a win over Creagh College in the first game of the year. They followed it up with a tight victory over town rivals St. Peter's College, which was to be the first in an epic trilogy of games. This win ensured they qualified for the county semi-final against Bridgetown. They played Bridgetown in a very tightly contested game that was level heading into the 4th quarter before the Boker Boys pulled away to finish handsome winners. The energy levels expended in the semi-final were to take its toll as they final was played later the same day. Our lads once again faced St. Peter's College in another thrilling encounter. Our lads faded in the final minute to lose grip of the game and hand St. Peter's the county title. As runners-up, however, they qualified for the regional semi-final against Waterford Champions St. Paul's Community College. Travelling up to Waterford our lads produced one of their best displays to win the game. They now faced St. Peter's for a 3rd time in the Regional Final. The match took place in WIT Arena. Again, the game proved to be an epic encounter. Our lads trailed for most of the game but refused to give up. They finally grasped the led in the game with less than 30 seconds left when team captain Angelo Miculescu scored the winning basketball. After dispossessing an opponent, he attacked and scored thus ensuring the victory and bragging rights for the town.

Juniors

Our juniors who were faced with the same group teams as the seniors also started the year with a win over Creagh College. They were outmatched against a very strong senior team and suffered their first defeat of the year. They received a walkover from Bunclody VC which qualified them for the semi-final where they played Coláiste Abbain. The game took place up in St. Peter's College. In a good game our lads got an early lead and held on for the win.

Missing star player Denis Miculescu they faced the St. Peter's for a second time. The result would not be reversed with St. Peter's running out easy winners. However it must be noted that the players put in a supreme effort on every play. As Runners-Up, they also qualified for the Regional Semi-Final where they also faced St. Paul's Community College. In a game that was very close at times St Paul's proved too strong and won by 10 points at the end. The strength of this team cannot be underestimated as the only two teams they lost too were the regional finalist. St Paul's would go on to beat St. Peter's by a point in the curtain-raiser for our senior final.

1st and 2nd years have now started training and will take part in competition after Christmas. They have shown some great enthusiasm for the game so far and will hopefully backbone strong and competitive senior and junior teams in the future.

Teachers Vs Student

In the annual Teacher vs Student Basketball Game in aid of the Zambia Immersion Project the 6th year students took on the teachers. Members of the senior basketball team in 6th year, alone with some other students selected through an open draw represented the teachers.

Student Team: Angelo Miculescu, Jack O'Leary, Adam Walsh, Finnian Coughlan, Robert Borhan, Cian Rossiter, Ryan Dempsey, Shane Hall, Cathal Kirwan, Adam Dempsey, Ben Creane and Brian Scully

Over the course of the game the teachers experience told as they ran out 15-11 winners.

RUGBY

FIRST YEARS

Our First Year rugby players had their first outing in Enniscorthy RFC today. We had two 7-a-side teams participate in a South East Blitz. Both teams acquitted themselves very well.

Team 1, lost 2-3 to Tullow, they drew 5-5 with Temple Carriag and defeated Colaiste Cill Mhantain, Wicklow 4-1 and East Glendalough 4-1. This team consisted of Kaylem Codd, Fionn O'Callaghan, Andrew Moran, Luke Cullen, Conor Dempsey, Tadgh Brohan and Abdul Azam

Team 2 played three games winning them all. They defeated Tullow CS 6-0, Arklow CBS 3-1 and Colaiste Cill Mhantain, Wicklow 4-1. This team consisted of Kent Lam, Eoin Walsh, Cian Doyle, Ben English, Ruairi Flannery, Rian Salmon and Jack Whelan.

Thank you to Jack Freeman and Darragh Byrne who managed Team 2.

JUNIOR

Our Junior team unfortunately went out at the Q-Final stage of their Leinster Shield after a narrow defeat to Colaiste Bhríde, Carnew.

SENIOR

The Senior squad were defeated by St. Kevin's, Dunlavin in their Cup competition. However, the majority of this squad is underage again next year, so maybe their time will come next season.

All-Ireland Handball Champions

Congratulations to Mark Doyle and Conor Dobbs who won the Leinster 60x30 under-15 title in October.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

School re-opens Monday 8th January 2018.

Junior Cycle Staff Inservice-Thursday 11th January 2018 (School closed).

Second Year P/T Meeting Thursday 18th January 2018-Classes end at 3.45pm.

First Year P/T Meeting Monday 29th January 2018-Classes end at 3.45pm.

Mid-term Break 12th – 16th February 2018 inclusively.

Junior Cert. Mock Exams Friday 2nd February 2018 –Friday 9th February 2018.

Leaving Cert. Mock Exams Friday 2nd February 2018–Friday 9th February 2018.

Junior Cycle Staff Inservice- Tuesday 6th March 2018 (School closed).

Easter Holidays Monday 24th March 2018-Friday 6th April 2018.

Mar fhocal scoir,

Nollaig Shona daoibh go léir agus athbhliain faoi shéan agus faoi mhaise daoibh freisin

Michael McMahon

