

SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER

THANK YOU

As the 2015-16 school year draws to a close in Coláiste Éamonn Rís, it is time to reflect on another busy and eventful one. I would like to thank Mr. Hegarty, Deputy Principal, for his hard work, help and support in the running of the school. I would also like to thank all the teaching staff for all their hard work in guiding, instructing and inspiring our students during this school year. Special thanks to the many teachers who gave of their free time to undertake class tutor or year head duties or who volunteered for the various staff committees. It would also be remiss of me not to mention the various teachers who facilitate the provision of an array of extra-curricular activities on offer in the school. These activities add significantly to the educational experience of all our students and greatly enhance and embellish school life. I would like also to record my thanks to Bernie, Colleen and Edel, our SNAs, our canteen staff Martina and Geraldine and our caretaker Derek for their work and support during the last year.

BEST WISHES

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Leaving Certificate class of 2016 the best of luck in the Leaving Certificate. Ninety nine students will sit the Leaving Certificate here this year. Many hours of study and homework have been spent over the last five or six years in preparation for this exam. I hope it bears fruit over the next few weeks.

The school's mission is to develop responsible individuals in a Christian environment, who will participate fully in a changing society. I trust that our Leaving Certificate students' future lives will bear witness to our success in this regard.

I would also like to extend best wishes to all our Junior Certificate students. 95 students will sit the Junior Certificate here this year. The Junior Certificate exam is an important milestone in their educational journey.

CONDOLENCES

On behalf of all staff and students, I would like to express our deepest sympathy to any family in the school community who were bereaved in the past year and to the following in particular: to Ms Kearney and her family on the death of her mother; to Oisín Kehoe Hickey (Third Year) and the Hore and Kehoe families on the death of Oisín's father, Fergie Kehoe; to Gerry Forde and the Forde family on the death of Gerry's brother, Michael.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management has had another busy year in guiding the fortunes of the school. I would like to thank Mr. Gerry Forde (Chairperson) and the other Board of Management members for their support and ongoing commitment to the school. The current board's term of office ends in October 2017.

PARENTS' COUNCIL

The Parents' Council has also been very supportive of the school in the past year. I would like to thank the members of the Council for their efforts. This year, once again, the council co-sponsored the Gaeltacht scholarships in conjunction with the board of management. The Council also helped to fund the homework club. The Council has an important role to play in the running of the school. Active participation in the Council's affairs by even more parents would be welcome. I would particularly like to thank the parents involved in preparing for and working at this year's Graduation reception in the school gym. It was a credit to all involved.

Six Gaeltacht scholarships were awarded this year. Three Second Year students (Christopher Flood; Dakota Rossi; Adam Kehoe) and three Fifth Year students (Richard Kielthy; Cody Murphy; Aaron Smythe) will be heading to Coláiste na nOileán in Galway for three weeks over the summer.

Roinn na Gaeilge in conjunction with the Physical Education Department organised a four day trip to Coláiste Ácla from 3rd-6th May for our Second Year students to improve their linguistic skills in our native tongue and to help promote the language as a living one among the school cohort. Sixty eight students travelled. Bhain said sult as an turas!

IMMERSION PROJECT

Mr. Whitty is proposing to run another Immersion Project with the intention of travelling to Zambia in June 2017. A considerable number of students expressed an interest in getting involved and since places on the Project are limited, interviews were held to determine those who will participate. The students and teachers involved will be actively engaged in fundraising for the next year in particular. All the funds raised for the Project will be used to help complete the Sables Centre which helps orphaned and vulnerable children. The Sables Centre provides food, shelter, education and counselling for these at risk children and aims to eventually integrate them into the normal education system. Whilst in Kawbe, the group will also engage in home visits, hospice visits and help in the classrooms to educate the children. The project has always been a huge success and the communities visited have greatly appreciated the work and kindness of the students and teachers.

STUDENTS' COUNCIL

I would like to thank the Students' Council for its contribution to school affairs during the last year. I would like, in particular, to thank Evin Ryan (chairperson) and the other Sixth Year members of the council who will be leaving us this year for their efforts on behalf of the student body. The council was represented at Comhairle Na nÓg, at Social Innovators and at the Proclamation Day Ceremony in Croke Park.

SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT

The school re-development project is progressing on schedule. The new gym and computer room will be ready for September 2016. Work is ongoing on the temporary accommodation on the school pitch and

we will be moving to the temporary accommodation for the new school year. This move will present a significant logistical challenge as it will involve the transfer of a considerable quantity of furniture and equipment from the existing buildings. The current works' entrance will in due course become the temporary entrance to the secondary school. Further information about the temporary campus will be sent to parents in advance of the return to school.

SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION-SSE

A/LITERACY

We have just completed Year 3 of the school's School Improvement Plan focusing on Literacy. The SIP is available on the school's website. All parents are asked to encourage their sons to read. Thank you to all the first year parents who returned the recent literacy survey. The feedback from parents on the various initiatives was very positive and a number of interesting suggestions offered. Initiatives which have been put in place in the school to encourage reading among our students such as Drop Everything and Read and Book in the Bag will continue in the new school year. The continued support and co-operation of parents will be vital to their success as the school strives to further improve literacy standards in the school.

B/NUMERACY

We have just completed Year 2 of the school's School Improvement Plan focusing on Numeracy. A number of initiatives have already being implemented such as the Numeracy Moment.

C/TEACHING AND LEARNING

2015-16 saw the SSE focus on Teaching and Learning. A presentation was made to the staff by a member of the PDST on Assessment for Learning, focusing on success criteria and learning outcomes. The principal, Mrs Hayes and Ms B. Roche are taking part in an Instructional Leadership Programme run by Professor Barrie Bennett in conjunction with the ETBI. As you are aware, the school received a very positive evaluation from the Department of Education Inspectorate during the recent WSE-MLL (Whole School Evaluation-Management, leadership and Learning) in November 2014. The report is available on the school website (www.wexfordcbs.ie) or on the DES website (www.education.gov.ie). Much work has gone on in the interim in implementing the recommendations in the report to further enhance the quality of educational provision in the school.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Given the cutbacks in funding for education, parents' contributions are as important as ever. High insurance, electricity and heating bills combined with the reduction in the capitation grant to the school over the last number of years, means that it will be harder to pay the school's bills next year. I would like to thank those who have given generously this year and I would appeal to all parents to make an extra effort next year to contribute to the voluntary contribution at the beginning of the school year. Your financial contributions are greatly appreciated. The costs of decanting have to be borne by the school

and these costs are considerable. We also hope to install an all-weather pitch when the school re-development work is complete and all costs of same will also have to be borne by the school

PUBLIC SPEAKING/DEBATING

Wexford CBS enjoyed considerable success this year in both the Leinster Schools Senior and Junior Debating competitions. Our senior team of Evin Ryan and Christopher Cash won a number of debates in Trinity College and U.C.D. Our junior team of Eoin Bergin and Ryan Healy did very well to reach the final 32 of the competition in U.C.D out of 300 teams. Junior Debator of the Year: Eoin Bergin. Senior Debator of the Year: Evin Ryan. Debating and public speaking continue to grow within the school. I would like to congratulate the students involved for their efforts throughout the year and to thank Mr. Whitty for all the work he puts in preparing the various teams.

ENROLMENT

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are reminded to submit Intention to Enrol forms for younger male siblings if they haven't already done so.

TRANSITION YEAR

There will be three Transition Year classes next year. The Transition Year programme which will provide the students involved with many educational challenges both within and beyond the school walls.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGES 2015-16

This year four of our students travelled to Lourdes to represent us on the Ferns diocesan pilgrimage. They acted as helpers on the pilgrimage and all found the experience to be a very rewarding one. Ian Bennett, Mark Enright, Cormac Byrne and Sean Beale travelled on the diocesan pilgrimage as part of the Ferns delegation. Once again, I received very positive feedback from the group leaders on the students' contributions. They were a credit to their families and their school.

CYCLE AGAINST SUICIDE

As part of the Cycle Against Suicide (CAS) awareness campaign, Coláiste Éamonn Rís took part in the Wexford to Arklow leg on Friday 6th May 2016. All the partaking students were amazing on the day; their perseverance and positive attitude mirrored the purpose of the cycle as a whole. As the CAS slogan goes, 'Shoulder to shoulder we can break the cycle of suicide on the island of Ireland'. Once again, I would like to congratulate and thank Ms Ivers for her trojan work in spearheading the initiative in the school and thank her, staff members and parents who were involved in the training runs and also to congratulate all the students who took part in the cycle.

TEXT MESSAGING

As you are aware, a text message is sent out to parents of students who do not present at 9.05am or at 1.45pm. Text messages are also sent to alert parents about staff meetings, parent-teacher meetings, late detentions, report card detentions etc. Please ensure that if you change your mobile contact

number that you let us know. Similarly, if you change address, please let us know in order to change your contact details on the school administration system.

LUNCHTIME/SIGNING OUT

A reminder to all parents of Junior Cycle students that they are forbidden from leaving the school grounds at lunchtime unless accompanied by a parent or a teacher. No exceptions will be made. Junior Cycle students who leave the school premises without permission will face severe sanction. **Junior Cycle students must be collected if they need to leave the school premises during the school day for appointments etc. All pupils must get permission to sign out before leaving the school premises.**

BOOK FUND

All parents who require financial help with the purchase of text books should have received the Book Grant form. These should have been returned to the school office.

BOOKLISTS and EXAM TIMETABLES

The 2016-17 booklists for the various years are available on the school website. Copies have also been distributed to each student. The 2016-17 school calendar is now also available on the school website. A copy will also be posted to each parent/guardian. The Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate timetables are also available on the school website and the State Examinations Commission website www.sec.ie.

CHINA 2015-2016

Mr. Ahearne has already begun preparations for next year's Transition Year trip to China. This year's trip was another great success with twenty eight students and three teachers making the journey. They visited Beijing and X'ian for what was a wonderful educational experience. They visited the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace. They then travelled on to X'ian to view the Terracotta Warriors. I would like to thank Mr. Ahearne for his time and energy in making these trips possible and the Confucius Institute in UCD for its help in this regard.



GERMAN EXCHANGE

Mrs Sinnott is currently planning a school exchange, in conjunction with the Loreto Secondary School, to St. Ursula's Catholic Secondary School in Baden-Wurtemberg in south-west Germany in February 2017. Those travelling will experience life in a German secondary school and stay with German families for a week.

The students who hosted our students in Germany in February will be coming to Wexford in September. They will attend classes and get a taste of Wexford life, while brushing up on their English. I would like to thank Mrs Sinnott for her work in organising our part of the exchange.

NEW YORK EXCHANGE

The exchange with our fellow CBS school, Iona Prep in New Rochelle, New York, took place from 7th-14th in April, building on the strong links built up between the two schools over the last number of years. I would like to thank Mrs Hayes for her work in organising the schedule for our students and making the necessary arrangements for our American guests when they visited in October last.

CUMANN ÉAMAINN RÍS

Well done to all the members of the Justice and Peace Society who undertook various initiatives in the school in the past year. The society reflects the values of Edmund Rice and presented further leadership opportunities for our students. The society raised money for Autism Action and for the homeless.



END OF YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Transition Year Awards Night

The Transition Year Awards ceremony was held in the school's G.P. room on Wednesday 25th May. This gave the Transition Year students an opportunity to showcase their year's work to their parents.

Nominations for Spirit of Transition Year Award

The following students were nominated for the Spirit of Transition Year Award: David Corish; Angelo Miculescu; Shaun Hartigan; Patsy Whelan; Ben Butler; Luke Dowdall; Cathal Kirwan; David McDonald; Ben Creane.

David Corish emerged as the worthy winner of the Spirit of Transition Year Award. Our eleventh Annual Awards Night took place on Monday 30th May in the Riverbank Hotel. This year the guest speaker was Mr. Ger Carthy. Mr. Carthy is currently Mayor of Wexford and is a past pupil of the school. The awards ceremony is held to recognise and affirm the efforts of those of our students who have set high academic standards, those who have worked to the best of their ability and those who have set sporting standards in the school. They seek to affirm the positive and are a celebration of our students' academic and sporting excellence.

Sixth Year Graduation Mass and Awards Night

The Sixth Year Graduation Mass and Awards Night was held in the G.P. room in the school on Thursday 26th May at 7.30pm, celebrated by Fr. James Cullen. All Sixth Years and their families were invited to attend. I would like to thank all associated with the end of year awards and ceremonies for all the hard work in making the night such a success. This year's celebration marked a significant milestone in the life of the Lynch family of Barrack Street, with Daniel the youngest of eight brothers to attend and graduate from the school. A presentation was made to Dolores and Pat Lynch to mark the occasion.

Sixth Year Academic Award Winners

Accounting	Adam Carroll
Applied Maths	Daniel Lynch
Art	Jack Smyth
Biology	Adam Buckley
Business Studies	Alex Lohier
Classical Studies	Chichun Lee
Chemistry	Eoin Hickey
Construction Studies	James Freeman
Design & Communication Graphics	Evin Ryan
English	Christopher Cash
French	Christopher Cash
German	Dillon Broaders
Geography	Liam Hore
History	Adam Carroll
Irish	Alex Lohier
LCVP	Kevin Reddy
Maths	Christopher Cash
Music	Noah Santschi-Cooney
Physics	Dillon Broaders

Exceptional Sporting Achievements: Dale White

The Performing Arts Award: Conor Larkin

Nominees: Adam Barnes, James Freeman, Conor Larkin, Nathan Mullally

The Kathleen Fahy Award . The school has a proud tradition of community involvement and charitable work and encourages the students to extend their life experience and to be of benefit to the community within which they live. This aspect of school life was recognised by seven nominations for the Kathleen Fahy Award.

Winner - Eoin Hickey

The Edmund Rice Award: The premier award the school bestows on one of the graduating students is the Edmund Rice Award, named after the school's founder. The nominees for this award, of which there were 17, are those students who are judged to best embody the spirit of the school. Young men who that use their academic abilities but more importantly demonstrates though out their school careers the qualities of integrity, leadership, co-operation and commitment to the school ethos.

Winner- Joe Redmond

School Awards Night

The school's eleventh Awards Night was held on Monday 30th May. The academic and sporting achievements of our First, Second, Third and Fifth year students were celebrated. Guest speaker on the night was past pupil Mr Ger Carthy, Mayor of Wexford.

5th Year Subject Awards 2016

<i>Irish (H):</i>	<i>Graeme Smyth</i>
<i>Irish (O):</i>	<i>Brendan Moss</i>
<i>English (H):</i>	<i>Thomas O'Brien</i>
<i>English (O):</i>	<i>Kramer Pascual</i>
<i>Applied Maths:</i>	<i>Graeme Smyth</i>
<i>Maths (H):</i>	<i>Graeme Smyth</i>
<i>Maths (O):</i>	<i>Kramer Pasqual</i>

<i>History:</i>	<i>Tony Wilde</i>
<i>Geography:</i>	<i>Danial Bin Azaharan</i>
<i>French:</i>	<i>Danial Bin Azaharan</i>
<i>German</i>	<i>Brian Sweetman</i>
<i>Accounting:</i>	<i>Tony Wilde</i>
<i>Business:</i>	<i>Tony Wilde</i>
<i>Physics:</i>	<i>Abdullah Amin</i>
<i>Chemistry:</i>	<i>Thomas O'Brien</i>
<i>Art:</i>	<i>Danial Bin Azaharan</i>
<i>Construction Studies:</i>	<i>John A. Murphy</i>
<i>Design & Comm.Graphics:</i>	<i>Thomas McGuinness</i>
<i>Biology:</i>	<i>Tony Wilde</i>
<i>L.C.V.P.</i>	<i>Conor Bergin</i>
<i>Religion</i>	<i>Ibar Quirke</i>
<i>Classical Studies</i>	<i>Graeme Smyth</i>

1st Year Awards 2016

Academic Award Winners

Beethoven

Gergely Pap

Nathan Murphy

Andrew Tsebrynsky

Handel

Jahnavi Parimkayala

Merit Award Winners

Noel Browne

Callum Doyle

James Molloy

David Kelly

Niks Ziemelis

Darragh Collins

Mozart

Conor Keane

Jack Walsh

Adam Connolly

Cillian Shiggins

Cathal Stafford

Strauss

Denis Miculescu

Eoin Foley

Shane Clancy

Luke Nolan

Conor Parle

Vivaldi

Sean White

Justin Dempsey

Jack Forde

Pierce McDonnell

Bart Pakula

2nd Year Award Winners 2016

Academic

Merit Award Winners

Euclid

Ciaran Carthy

Shane O'Leary

Paul Leonard

Glen-Murphy-Butler

Jakub Pakula

Hamilton

Manus Harte

Eoin Corish

Wen Geng Lin

Andrew Mythen

Riley Kohl

Newton

Adam Mahon

Sam McQuaid

Adam Feery

Richie Lawlor

Ashton Rossiter

Pythagoras

Richie Browne

Ian Sweetman

David McDonnell

Reuben Deane

Dakota Rossi

3rd Year Award Winners 2016

Oak

Cian Foley

Ryan Healy

Ciaran Bridson

Dylan Carley

Urii Sanin

Ash

Dan Hendrick

Gary Hall-Roche

Liam Godkin

John Brady

David Harte

Birch

Gary Carroll

Paul Lohier

Carlos Sasaran

Shane Bergin

Jack Webster

Cedar

Fionn Roche

Ryan Hodge

Luke Moloney

William Cole

Ryan Kavanagh

ENTERPRISE and BUSINESS QUIZ

Two teams from Third Year represented the school at the CIMA Quiz and went onto represent the South East Region in the National final.

It was a hugely successful year for Enterprise in the school. The Dapper Bow Tie Co. - David Corish, Cormac Monaghan and Aaron Walsh were awarded 1st place in the Senior Category and Pet Healthy Living- Jake Cunningham, 2nd year won 1st place in the Intermediate Category at the Xcel Students Enterprise Awards. Both companies went on to the National Enterprise Awards where Pet Healthy Living took 2nd place. The Dapper Bowtie Co. appeared on the Ray Darcy Show prior to this event.
Entrepreneur of the Year: Jake Cunningham

Sports Review

Hydras Swimming Club

This year students enjoyed great success at the Leinster Swimming Schools Competitions and were awarded silver in the Junior Medley Relay and bronze in the Senior Freestyle Relay. Swimmers also came 5th in Junior Freestyle Relay at the Irish Schools Relay Gala. Eoghan Mahon was selected onto the Irish Surf Lifesaving Squad earlier this year. Senior Swimming Award Winner: Kenneth Corcoran. Junior Swimming Award Winner: Adam Kehoe.

Cycling

The cycling Club headed up the Cycle Against Suicide Wexford Spin Off peloton and CBS have achieved Ambassador School Status this year. Senior Cyclist of the Year: Patrick Dobbs. Junior Cyclist of the Year: Nathan Barron.

Waterpolo

The team had a successful year reaching the final of the O' Brien Tournament losing to a very good and experienced Blackrock College team. The u16 team competed in the Irish Schools Cup and Denis Miculescu was selected to the panel of the Irish u15 team, a tremendous achievement. Senior Waterpolo Award Winner: Niall Reck. Junior Waterpolo Award Winner: Denis Miculescu.

Golf

Senior Golfers began the year very well qualifying for the knockout stages of the Leinster Senior Match play Championship at Old Conna G.C. in September. The golf team qualified second out of eighteen schools. Golfer of the Year was awarded to John Brady. John is a member of the u16 and u18 Irish Golf Teams.

Hurling

The Juvenile hurlers stole the show this year by storming to victory in the 'C' championship. The juniors reached the South Leinster semi-final at the 'C' grade. Senior Hurling Award: Daniel Lynch. Junior Hurling Award Winner: Chris Cowman. Juvenile Hurling Award: Glen Murphy-Butler.



Basketball

Junior Basketball Award: Denis Miculescu & First Year Basketball Award: Edgar Latvenas

Gaelic Football

The Juvenile footballers topped their group in the South Leinster C championship. This year's u16 team returned to the B Championship after a long time in the C division. Junior Football Award Winners: Cathal Kirwan and Adam Dempsey. Juvenile Football Award Winner: Glen Murphy/Butler. First Year Football Award Winner: Shane Clancy

Rugby

While no honours were won this year, many of our players were Leinster medal winners with Wexford Wanderers. Senior Rugby Award Winner: Kevin Birney. Junior Rugby Award Winner: Carlos Sasaran. First Year Rugby Award Winner: Eoin Foley.

Athletics

Gergley Pap, 1st year, was the rising star this year, winning Gold at the Minor Leinster Finals in Shot and Discs, while the Intermediate 4x100m Relay team won silver and qualified for the All Irelands. Transition Year student, David Mc Donald took 3rd place in the Irish Indoor Senior 200m this year. He will be representing Ireland in the u18 100 and 200m sprint in the EU Championships in Georgia and in the

100m relay in the u20 World Championships in Poland this summer. Senior Athlete of the Year: David Mc Donald. Junior Athlete of the Year: Gergley Pap.



Soccer

Our Under 17 soccer team came agonisingly close to winning the Leinster Cup in the highest grade and wrapped up another Wicklow/Wexford league title. Our U-15 squad successfully defended their U-15 Wicklow Wexford League Title. Our first years got to the Leinster Finals in the indoor Futsal Tournament. U.19 Soccer Award : Lee Busher, U.17 Soccer Award: Kallum Broaders and Sam O'Neill. Golden Boot Winner: Luke O' Neill. U.15 Soccer Award: Reece Murphy. First Year Soccer Award: Eoin Kavanagh.

CAREER GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING – Ms. Barnwell

CAO:

6th year students are now in a position to review their CAO course choices for college through utilising the CAO 'change of mind' service. This facility allows students who have applied for CAO to add to, delete or alter the order of their course preferences. Changes can be made on line and it is advisable to do this as opposed to filling out paperwork as it helps avoid any mistakes. This facility will remain open until July 1st. After this date it will not be possible to amend selections. It is vital that every student enters their selections in genuine order of preference so as to avoid disappointment when offers are released in August.

On this note, it is important to note that CAO offers will be issued in August a number of days after Leaving Certificate results have been released. Offers are usually issued at 6am on the CAO official website on the student's individual account and can be accepted online. There is usually a week's grace

period within which students must decide whether they will accept the offer made. It is important to note that if a student fails to accept an offer and subsequently receives no further offers should there be a second round, they will have no entitlement to then accept the first offer. Second round offers are by no means guaranteed so it is advisable to accept first round offers. Should a second offer arise, the student may then accept it if they wish and it cancels out the first offer. If there are any queries whatsoever on this process, students & parents can contact Ms. Barnwell on cbswexgc@gmail.com . There is also a contact facility for CAO which can be found on their website www.cao.ie .

Grants:

All 6th year students have received information on how to go about applying for both fee and maintenance grants. All applications are now centralised through SUSI. Information on eligibility, income limits, candidate status etc. can be found on the official website www.susi.ie . A contact number for the SUSI support helpline as well as an email address for same can also be found on this website. Should parents/guardians wish to view a step by step guide on how to make a grant application, a video tutorial can be found by logging onto www.youtube.com and entering 'susi video' in the search bar. This will show a 15 minute clip on the stages of the application and can be extremely useful especially for first time applicants. Various documents are needed to support the application and these are outlined in this video. Finally, applications opened at the end of April and will remain open for the summer. Applications must be made through www.studentfinance.ie and I would advise that they are made as soon as possible so as not to risk any delays in payment once a student has enrolled in 3rd level or further education.

Note: Grant applications may also be made for students intending on pursuing a PLC course upon leaving school.

RDS Higher Options Seminar September 2016:

Every September, The Irish Times Higher Options brings a world of study choice to students. For three days, students are offered a unique opportunity to meet directly with over 150 representatives from universities, colleges and education institutions from Ireland, the UK, Europe and beyond. Ms Barnwell will be taking students (Sixth Year 2016-17) to this event. It will provide an invaluable experience in terms of information gathering and fact-finding for students exploring their options upon leaving the CBS. There will be various talks running throughout the day on different career paths as well as stands from each institution whereby students can pose questions to the relevant people on their courses of interest.

Throughout the year it is intended to also have numerous guest speakers from numerous institutions come into the school to speak to next year's 6th year students.

On a final note, just a reminder that careers, educational, or personal counselling appointments with Ms. Barnwell are available to all students in the school at any time throughout the coming academic year. Students who need assistance in any of these 3 areas are strongly encouraged to approach the

Guidance office to make an appointment. Alternatively, any general queries, appointment requests etc. can be sent directly to Ms. Barnwell at cbswexgc@gmail.com.

PROPOSALS FOR IMPROVING THE TRANSITION OF STUDENTS FROM SECOND LEVEL EDUCATION TO HIGHER EDUCATION

The Minister for Education and Skills has announced reforms aimed at improving the transition of students from second level education to higher education. The reform consists of four changes that **will impact on students sitting the Leaving Certificate in 2017 and beyond**. The proposed changes address the following issues:

- The extent of predictability in the Leaving Certificate examinations;
- A new grading scale for the Leaving Certificate examinations;
- Proposals towards a revised common points scale for entry into higher education; and
- Broader undergraduate entry to higher education programmes.

The proposed changes are set out in the document Supporting 'A Better Transition from Second Level to Higher Education: Implementation and Next Steps', which is available in electronic format on www.transition.ie. It is also available on our school website.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Re-opening dates:

Tuesday 30th August 2016 First Year Induction Day 9.05am-4pm/Transition Year 10.00am-12pm

Wednesday 31st August 2016 2nd Year / 5th Year 9.30-12.00

3rd / 6th Year 1.15-3.15

Thursday 1st September 2016 All Years

RACE 2017

We have been advised by the State Examinations Commission that documentation for the Leaving Certificate 2017 RACE scheme will not be issued to the school until September 2016.

UNIFORMS

All students require a school jacket as part of the school uniform. If any current student requires a new jacket, his order should be placed with the school secretary.

Incoming Fifth Year and Transition Year students will require the blue polo short/ sweater combination instead of the blue shirt, tie and grey jumper. The jackets/polo shirts/sweaters are only available from the school. Orders will be taken on Friday 10th June from 10.30am-12pm with a view to having the

merchandise on sale in the school prior to the opening of the new school year. Parents will be contacted by text re times and dates in August. Any incoming Sixth Year who requires a sweater, polo shirt or jacket should also order from Bernie in the office.

MEITHEAL LEADERS 2016-17

Congratulations to all the Fifth Year students who applied to become Meitheal leaders for 2016-17. Twelve were selected from the applicants following an interview process held outside the school. The Meitheal leaders act as mentors for the first year cohort and play an important role in ensuring that each one of them has a friendly and accessible outlet to share and address any problem that may arise.

The successful candidates were as follows: Dylan Breen; Adam Baziz; Conor Bergin; Shane Flood; Mark Enright; Peter Doyle; Aaron Smythe; Thomas O'Brien; Josh Byrne; Enda Doyle; Cormac Byrne; Alex Eydt.

Training for the new Meitheal leaders will take place on 8th and 9th August 2016.

SCHOOL CLOSING

The school office will close on Friday 24th June @4.30pm and will re-open on Tuesday 16th August @ 9am. The Leaving Certificate results are due out on Wednesday 17th August.

GREEN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE



Green Schools Initiative

We were successful in gaining our first Green Flag. The Green Schools Programme is a 7 step process to a better school environment. The Green schools programme aims to increase environmental awareness among the school community. It's a long term programme that aims to improve the general environment around the school and the general community. The areas of litter and waste disposal in our school were targeted for attention. I would like to thank Mr Whitty and the Greens Schools Committee for all their work in helping to achieve the award.



RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN Coláiste Éamonn Rís

As you are no doubt aware, Coláiste Éamonn Rís is a Restorative school. What does this mean? This is an approach where our school community manages conflict, harm and tensions by repairing and building relationships.

Restorative Practices (RP) is an approach to problem solving that is based around three basic concepts-

- That when an incident (or wrongdoing) occurs, the focus is on the harm that has been done to people and relationships.
- When harm has been done, it creates obligations, liabilities and responsibilities.
- The way forward involves wrongdoers, victims and the school community in efforts to heal the harm and put things right so that all involved can move forward in a constructive way.

Traditional approach to discipline

- A violation against the rules of the school. Someone is found guilty and is punished in relation to rules and regulations i.e. What rule have you broken? What is the sanction for breaking that rule?
- Punishment alone for the offender offers little in the genuine way of accountability; does little to meet a victim's needs and does little to address the causes of the wrongdoing.

A restorative approach.....

- Demands that we think about what happens in terms of its negative impact on people and relationships i.e. who is affected by this and how their needs might be met in the aftermath of the incident.
- Provides an insight for the offending student into the impact of his/her behaviour on others and gives an opportunity for the offending student to repair the resulting harm.
- Allows those affected to confront the offending student, to voice their feelings safely and be part of the decision making process Minimises the potential of further inappropriate behaviour.
- Involves family and significant others to increase greater accountability.
- Provides the school community with an appropriate response following disruptive and serious incidents.

Traditional Discipline	Restorative Approach
Viewed in terms of rule-breaking	Viewed in terms of harm done to individuals
Focus on establishing blame or guilt	Focus on establishing responsibility and way forward
Authority figure with power to decide on penalty	Dialogue involving all parties in the incident
Accountability=getting punished	Accountability = working to put things right
Punishment to deter	Repair, apology and reparation
The needs of those affected are often ignored	The unmet needs behind the behaviour are addressed
Wrong doer feels hard done by and bitter	Wrongdoer has opportunity to face up to poor decisions
Victim has no involvement and feels powerless	Victim has involvement in process and contribution to outcome
Resentment, denial, anger, fear, revenge are common during and after process	Empowerment, honesty, openness, opportunity to move on, peace of mind after process

Target outcomes of Restorative Practices

1. The victim is able to feel safe again.

2. The focus is on harm to people and acceptable behaviours. This reduces the likelihood of blame or denial.
3. The wrongdoer and his/her family are more likely to accept responsibility for what has happened.
4. The wrongdoer will develop a greater empathy from the conference experience and is less likely to re-offend as a result.
5. The offending student will be reintegrated into the wider school community.

FINALLY

I would like to wish all our staff, parents/guardians and students a safe and enjoyable summer. Le gach dea-ghuí.

Michael Mc Mahon.