



# JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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1<sup>st</sup> October, 2018

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope you and yours have settled back into the routine of school. We are delighted to see all of our students again and welcome new students to our school. Here are some notices that may be of interest:

## **Philosophy Themes**

To provoke discussion and thought, some of the themes for the past few weeks have been:

How can I be courageous?  
How can we develop good habits?  
What is it that never changes?  
How can we embrace the Now, fully?

For more information about the assembly themes please click [here](#).

## **Parents Association AGM – September Nov 27<sup>th</sup>**

The parent's association AGM took place last Thursday September 27<sup>th</sup>. Two new parents have now been elected onto the Board of Management: Ashkhan Aryan and Susanna Braswell

The following parent representatives have been appointed:

1<sup>st</sup> Year: Fiona Aryan and Neeraj Kumar  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year: Triona Sheeran, Orlaith O'Callaghan  
Transition Year: Paul Kinlay  
5<sup>th</sup> Year: Una Ní Chanainn  
6<sup>th</sup> Year: Susie Spratt

There is still a need for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year rep. Please let me know if you are interested.

In addition, Neeraj Kumar and Fiona Aryan both volunteered to coordinate the parent's association.

Thanks to all for volunteering to be part of the various committees.

## **Parent Talk - Emotional First Aid Training Tool for Parents of Teenagers**

This year Enda Murphy will give a talk on the topic of how to develop an Emotional First Aid Training Tool for Parents and Teenagers.

The talk will place on Monday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in Old Conna.

Enda Murphy is one of the best known Psychotherapists in Ireland. Currently he is Broadcasting Columnist on 'Today with Sean O Rourke', RTE radio (Aug 2014 – To Date) and has authored many books including '*Five Steps to Happiness*' and '*Flagging the Screenager*'

More information about the talk can be found [here](#).

### **Open Day, Sunday Oct 7<sup>th</sup>.**

You and your families and friends are cordially invited to our Open Day on Sunday Oct 7<sup>th</sup> at Old Conna where you will get a further opportunity to see our beautiful new campus.

Please bring along any friends or family who may be interested in hearing about the education we offer in John Scottus School, or alternatively share the link promoting the Open Day: [Open Day 2018](#)

### **School Clubs Fair**

Our Schools Club Fair took place on Monday Sept 24<sup>th</sup>. During the fair students had the chance to sign up to the various clubs and extra-curricular activities on offer. The clubs this year include: Hockey, GAA, Athletics, Sailing, Hiking, Golf, Swimming, Frisbee, Yoga, Green Schools, Chess, Choir, Socrates, School Magazine, Art, Film, Cars, Computers, Socrates and Gardening. For more details about the various clubs please click [here](#).

### **Leaving Certificate Results**

Well done to our graduating class of 2018. 80% of students got offered Level 8 degree courses in disciplines ranging from Engineering to Art and Design. There are also travelling to many destinations including all the main universities in Ireland and International Colleges. Well done to all students and teachers involved.

### **Founders Day and Official Opening**

On September 7<sup>th</sup> we celebrated both Founder's Day and the Official Opening of the school at Old Conna It was moment to treasure as John Scottus now has the facilities and environment to further enrich our student's educational experience. To see some pictures from the Founder's day please click [here](#).

**Home Economics** – We have a new subject in 5<sup>th</sup> year, Home Economics. To see some pictures of the first practical class please click [here](#).

**Start of year Church Service** – Our start of year church service took place on Friday Sept 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a very peaceful occasion where moments of stillness and reflection where experienced. Special thanks must to be given to Mr. Fran Dempsey and the choir for their beautiful music.

**Building Positive Relationships** – We had a guest speaker, Monica Rowe, on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> talking to students from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> year on building positive relationships and well-being. Hopefully you have heard some comments about the talk at home.

### **Sept 28<sup>th</sup>, School Closed.**

I just thought I would explain why the school closed on Sept 28<sup>th</sup>. The school opens for the mandatory 167 days. As we started on the Monday August 27<sup>th</sup> and finish on Friday May 31<sup>st</sup>, we had one day to allocate as a holiday. We decided to break up the first half term with a day off as it is 9 weeks long.

### **Erasmus Plus Cultural Exchange**

The school has received a grant from Leargas to participate in a cultural exchange with 3 schools across Europe. This grant will enable our student to participate in cultural exchange visit to Italy, Latvia and Holland at heavily subsidised rates. Well done to Ms. Geraldine Shanahan on the successful grant application.

### **Study Skills Workshop**

There was a study skills workshop for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years and their parents last October 1<sup>st</sup> with Enda O'Doherty (see [here](#)). It really highlighted that there are proven techniques based on vision, planning and hard work that bring success in academic studies.

### **Higher Options 6<sup>th</sup> Year**

Our 6<sup>th</sup> years visited the Higher Option exhibition on Sept 12<sup>th</sup>. It is a very useful trip as it gives our 6<sup>th</sup> years an opportunity to further clarify their ambitions and plans for when they leave school.

### **GDPR**

Under the new data protection legislation, we are required to ask all parents to complete data consent forms. These forms will be handed to your children over the next week and need to be signed and returned. Please note it will be important to get a form back from every child.

### **A philosophical thought for the day**

“You don't have to be great to start, but you do have to start to be great” – Zig Ziglar


### **Summary of Events coming up**

Open Day, Sunday Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 11 to 12.30pm

Numeracy Week: Oct 15<sup>th</sup> to Oct 19<sup>th</sup>

Midterm Break: Monday Oct 29<sup>th</sup> to Friday Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>

Yours warmly,



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