



# JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

OLD CONNA, FERNDALE ROAD, RATHMICHAEL, CO. DUBLIN.

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19<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We are coming close to the end of a very eventful first term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their dedication during the first term: students, parents, teachers, staff and extended school community. Here are just a few notices I would like to share with you.

## School Events

### *Christmas Carol Service*

Our Carol Service takes place on Friday Dec 20<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am in St. Mary's church, Haddington Road. I hope to see you there. After the service students may either be collected, make their own way home or be brought back to the school on the school bus.

### *Literacy week*

Literacy week is currently taking place. The highlight is the Speech competition which is taking place on Thursday Dec 19<sup>th</sup>. Some of the activities this week include Dress up as your favourite character assembly, book club, Poetry competition and the Speech competition.

### *Parents AGM*

Please keep in your diary the date of the parents AGM. It will take place Monday Feb 6<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in Old Conna.

### *TY Nepal Fundraiser*

The Transition Year class will host a movie morning fundraiser for Nepal Trip on Friday Dec 20<sup>th</sup>. Entry to a movie will cost €3. If your child wishes to come and support please ask them to bring in €3 tomorrow.

## Academic

### *Parent Class Teacher meetings – Monday Jan 13<sup>th</sup>*

As you will note from the school calendar, Parent/Class Teacher meetings are taking place on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020**. This opportunity to meet formally with the class teacher and discuss your child's progress takes place once each year. The interviews will last up to 15 minutes each. The matters to be addressed include the academic progress and general well-being of your child. The exchange of information between you, your child and the teacher will help identify and crystallise one or two specific aims for the

coming year. This will help them to keep a good direction in their life. Please be reminded that your son/daughter should attend this meeting with you.

### ***After School Study guidelines***

After school study is available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 4.00 to 5.30pm and on Wednesday from 1.00pm to 3.30pm. To make the after school study more beneficial for all students, we have drawn up on guidelines on how it will be conducted. Please see attachment for details.

### ***School Fees***

At this time of year the financial forecasts for the next academic school year are being prepared and evaluated. In the light of this review, there will be no change in the school fee for next year, it will stay the same at €5650.

### ***Academy***

To help promote a strong academic culture in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year and broaden the range of subjects available, our Board of Management has recently introduced two new measures:

- Scholarship Programme for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years – A Scholarship programme has been introduced for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students. The criteria for getting a scholarship will be 3 As or Distinctions in Junior Cycle Exams. The scholarship amount would be 35% of the school fees.
- Option to study 5<sup>th</sup> year subjects after school – If there is demand from students to study a particular subject that the school is not able to provide in the main curriculum, the school will look to provide the subject after normal school hours, that is from 4 to 6pm. Please note there would be an additional fee of €1000 per year to study the subject

We hope both these measures will encourage high academic performance at the Junior Cycle and to help address the interests of students.

### ***New Chairs***

The school has recently purchased 65 new chairs for two rooms in the Nordic block. The previous chairs were in use for a long time and we believe the new chairs will raise the standard of the general environment

### ***Academic Tracking Software***

The school has recently purchased software to help with academic tracking. We enter all results from previous exams and the software using an Artificial Technique (ie neural network) predicts future grades based on previous results. We hope that the software will help us to easier identify if, for each individual student, exam results are in line with expectations, exceeding expectations or below expectations.

### ***Transition Year Update***

Amidst many other activities, TYs have recently gone ice skating and visited Padraig Pearse's museum ([link](#)). The Grease dance rehearsals have also begun ([link](#)).

## **Extra-Curricular**

### ***Irish Debating***

Our Junior Irish debating team of Euan Gallagher Doyle, Mikey Mallin and Daisy Tyner have qualified for the next round of the competition. They travelled to Mount Anville school on 11th December to defend the motion that RTÉ are providing a good service to the people of Ireland. We look forward to the next round of the competition in the new year.

### **Golf Program**

Ms. Shanahan has organized a 6 week introductory golf program with our neighbours at Old Conna Club. The 6 week course is just €30 per child and will cover all aspects of the game. All classes will be led by Donal Glesson, resident PGA Professional. For more information please email [gshanahan@johnscottus.ie](mailto:gshanahan@johnscottus.ie) or to book please pay online through easy payments on the school website.

### ***Sports Update***

The John Scottus Senior and Junior teams got their seasons off to winning starts with two strong victories against Stratford College Junior and Senior teams. To find out more please click [here](#).

On November 21st four John Scottus Ultimate Frisbee teams travelled to The National Indoor Arena in Abbotstown to compete in the most recent IFDA organised event. To find out more please click [here](#).

### ***Film Club***

Film Club has been running all term with approximately 12-20 members attending each week on Tuesday Lunchtimes. To find out more please click [here](#).

### ***Lost property***

There are a lot of items left around the school each day, ranging from uniform to books and stationery. It would be most helpful if parents could make sure that all items of clothing and books/stationery are labelled so that lost property can be returned to the students promptly.

### ***Wednesday After School Sport***

After School sport on Wednesdays runs from 1:15 - 2:15. Both girls and boys will be training for Soccer. All are welcome

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

School Re-opens – Monday Jan 6<sup>th</sup>

Parent-Class Teacher Meetings – Monday Jan 13<sup>th</sup>

Philosophy week – Week beginning Jan 20<sup>th</sup>

School Closed for Junior Cycle Training Day – Tuesday Jan 28<sup>th</sup>

Mock Exams for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students – Begins Friday Feb 7<sup>th</sup>

**A philosophical thought for the day**

“Education is the manifestation of the perfection already in Man” – Vivekananda

Yours warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Declan Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

Dr. Declan Kelly

Principal

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