



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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30th January, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The first month of the New Year has been eventful and we would like to take this opportunity to share a few notices with you.

School Events

Junk Kouture Show

Our Transition Year Students held a Junk Kouture show for the whole school on Friday January 24th. Junk Kouture is a fashion competition using recycled materials, which challenges young people to design, create and model high end couture from everyday junk! To see pictures please see [here](#).

Philosophy and Self-Discovery Week

Philosophy week took place the week beginning Monday January 20th. The theme of Philosophy week was "Are you a Global Citizen?". Different events took place during the week including debates and a Philosophy Fair. Students in all classes did a presentation on a philosophical question of their choosing. The winners from each class presented in front of the whole school. Well done to Pedro who won the Junior award on the topic of "Right and Wrong Morality". To see the winning video by Faolán and James in 6th year on the topic of "Are we too engrossed in the modern world" please click [here](#).

Literacy Week and Speech Competition

Literacy week took place the week beginning December 16th. The highlight of the week was the annual speech competition and again this year the speeches by students were of an exceptionally high standard. To read more about the week and the winners of the speech competition please click [here](#).

Open Morning

We held an Open Morning on Wednesday Jan 22nd for parents enrolling children for August 2020 and August 2021. We had a very good turn out and now our 1st year class is full. We have limited our intake this year to one class of 26 students and currently have a waiting list. We look forward to August 2021 to meeting this demand by having a two-class intake.

Transition Year Ball - Nepal Fundraiser

Our Transition Years held our ever first ball in Old Conna. The objective of the ball was to raise money for Nepal. It was a great success, thanks all the great work by our Transition Year students and their parents. To see a picture of the event please see [here](#). To find out more about the Indreni organisation we are partnering with in Nepal please

see this video ([link](#)) produced by Zach in 6th year.

Academic

February Exams

The second set of formal academic exams are coming shortly. The exams for 1st, 2nd and 5th year take place from Wednesday Feb 12th to Friday Feb 14th. The mock exams for our 6th year students begin on Friday Feb 7th and for 3rd years on Monday Feb 10th. Progress reports on learning will be available for viewing in early March.

VS Ware Access

All exam results are accessible using our VS Ware student administration system. With the username and password provided to you, you should be able to log in and see all results. If you have any issues accessing the system, please contact our office.

Phones/Smart Watches

We have updated our ICT behaviour policy to specifically prohibit the use of Smart watches which facilitate the use of Social media and texting. Just a reminder of our ICT Policy:

All use of technology should be for the support of learning. ICT devices are to be used (e.g. tablets, notebooks, laptops, headphones, smart watches etc.) only under teacher supervision.

Teachers will confiscate ICT devices when there are misused. Devices confiscated will be placed in the School Office for 3 days. After 3 days the parent/guardian of the student may reclaim the device. If the parent/guardian of the student has not reclaimed the device within 7 days, it will be returned to the student after the 7 days.

Absent Teachers

As you are already aware our Irish Teacher Ms. Mhic Chionnaith is absent from school on medical leave. In addition Ms. Franklin and Mr. Telford are with the Transition Years in Nepal. We have organised replacement teachers for all classes who will continue to implement the lesson plans in all subjects.

Transition Year Update

Amidst many other activities, TYs have recently visited Microsoft Dream Space ([here](#)), taken a TEFL course (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), did a workshop on leadership organised by [LIFT](#) and went bag packing to fundraise for their trip to Nepal.

They departed for Nepal on Monday Jan 27th and we look forward to hear about their many adventures.

Leaving Certificate Results Analysis

At the most recent Board of Management an analysis of the Leaving Certificate Results 2019 were presented. An analysis of the grades in each subject were compared against the national average. In particular, it was noted that a much higher percentage of students in John Scottus sit higher-level subjects compared to the national average.

Extra-Curricular

Student Leadership Team - Head Girl and Boy

The interview for our Student Leadership team took place recently. It is great to see our students put themselves forward for leadership positions. Our new Head Girl is Delfine Ryan and Head Boy is Nathan Boissier. The new deputies are Jessica Spratt, Jessica Dingle and James Mungavin. We look forward to working with them on their various initiatives.

Self-Defense

In PE, students are doing a 4 week module in Self-Defence. Please see [here](#) for more information about the company providing the training.

Donation Drive

A Donation Drive is being organised by Ms. Swan in aid of the charity Five Loaves. Adult clothes and non-perishable items are being collected. Please check your wardrobes and drop any items to the school before Feb 14th.

Seó Bóthair

Our senior cycle students attended the Seó Bóthair workshop on January 17th. The purpose of the workshop was to encourage and empower students to use their Irish more often, both inside and outside of school.

Well-Being Trip to India

Students from our 2nd year Well-being class travelled to India to discover more about Well-being from an India perspective. To see some pictures from the trip please click [here](#).

Sports Update

Students have been in recent weeks competing in Soccer Competitions and in a Frisbee Blitz. We also look forward next week to our basketball team playing their first match of the year. In addition, the golf program in Old Conna has started with our students taking golf lessons with the Golf professional.

Summary of Events coming up

Mock Exams for 3rd and 6th year students – Friday Feb 7th to Friday Feb 14th

Exams for 1st, 2nd and 5th years - Wednesday Feb 12th to Friday Feb 14th

Mid-term Break – Monday Feb 17th to Friday Feb 21st inclusive

Seachtain an Gaeilge - March 9th

A philosophical thought for the day

Some thoughts on the need for meditation:

“There are two aspects in drama. One is playing the part on the stage. Just behind the open stage, there is the back stage, where the actors are told what to do and how to do it. There they are dressed properly so as to play their part. But what is seen in the world is that people just go on playing their part. Their costumes become dirty, worn out, and their part becomes stale and repetitive. They do not know that they have also to go back stage and be prepared for the next part” - Sri Shantanad Saraswati

Yours warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Declan Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

Dr. Declan Kelly

Principal

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