



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

OLD CONNA, FERNDALE ROAD, RATHMICHAEL, CO. DUBLIN.
TEL: (01) 6680828,
E-MAIL: SECONDARY@JOHNSCOTTUS.IE WEB: WWW.JOHNSCOTTUS.IE

2nd December, 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope your sons and daughters have had an enjoyable first two months of school. Here are some notices that may be of interest:

School Events

Philosophy Themes

The weekly themes for the past few weeks have looked at the area of decision-making. The challenges presented to students when faced with decision-making have included:
Do you ask questions?
What would a wise person do?

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

Old Conna Track

Last Saturday morning November 30th, a team of students, teachers and parents cleared the Old Conna track, a 1 km circuit around the Campus through the forest. Thank you all for your help.

Science Week

Science week (Nov 11th) was kick started with a spectacular display of science by Ms. Grace and the Chemistry students at assembly on Monday. During the week there were numerous Science activities including quizzes, games and presentations. The week ended with another display by Mr. Brady and the Physics students at Thursday's assembly. Thank you to all the teachers and students that helped promote the relevance of science, technology, engineering and maths in our everyday lives during science week. For some pictures from Science Week, please click [here](#).

TY Information

An information evening for 3rd year parents took place on Monday Nov 25th. During the evening, an overview of the Transition Year programme was presented by Mr. Timothy Telford. If you would like to know more please contact Mr. Telford.

Academic

December 5th – School Closed for New Junior Cycle Training

Please note the school closes on Thursday Dec 5th to facilitate professional development for teachers in the new Junior Cycle.

Past Pupils

Well done to a number of past pupils who have received awards recently for outstanding achievement.

Aisling Spratt was recognised by UCD with a scholarship award for her outstanding Leaving Certificate, a maximum of 625 points.

John Doran was recognised by TCD with an entrance award for his outstanding Leaving Certificate

Persephone Kianka received the prestigious National University of Ireland award and scholarship for her excellence in (UCC) English writing.

Well done to all.

November Exams

The first major assessments of the year took place from Monday November 18th to Wednesday November 20th. Progress reports on learning will be available for viewing mid-December.

Study Skills Seminar Day

On Nov 5th, our 3rd and 6th years attended a study skills seminar hosted by Sean Kelly (see details [here](#)). The feedback from students was very positive and the strategies covered in the workshop will be developed further throughout the year.

Questioning Strategy

Our Questioning Improvement Strategy has set out three targets.

Increase active learning in class through appropriate questioning - In practice this involves asking students to “do” something with content through appropriate questioning. For example, pick out the main 3 points of a paragraph.

Create a culture of questioning - We encourage our students to discover that the best idea is more important than winning an argument, that good questions are more important than lengthy speeches, to be willing to listen to others and to be happy to be proved wrong.

Develop range of questioning that embraces higher and lower order question - Bloom’s Taxonomy is used as a framework to ensure different levels of questions are asked. For example some questions involved the recall of knowledge such as when did an event happen, while other questions involved developing opinions or judgements such as asking students to compare or evaluate.

Transition Year Update

Our Transitions years, as part of their Environmental Studies, are creating a more inviting entrance to our wonderful school. For some pictures of their work, please click [here](#).

Other highlights of the past few weeks also include volleyball coaching ([here](#)) and making Christmas ginger bread houses in their Cookery course ([here](#))

Extra-Curricular

Comortas Beo Finals

Well done to Jessica Dingle, from 5th year, who performed with her self-composed song “An bhfuil aon ghá?”; at Oireachtas na Samhna in Citywest Hotel and came in second place. To hear this wonderful song please click [here](#).

Irish Debate

On the 5th November last, the school hosted a first-round qualifier of the national Irish language debating competition here in Old Conna. Well done to our Junior team of Euan Gallagher Doyle, Mikey Mallin and Daisy Tyner who progressed to the next stages of the competition. To read more about the event please click [here](#).

Girls Frisbee Blitz

On November 6th, our Junior and Senior Girls team travelled for their first game of the season. To read more please click [here](#).

AA Talk

Our Senior Cycle students attended a talk by AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) on Tuesday November 26th. The talk is part of the school’s effort to encourage our students to question and reflect on why drugs and alcohol are used.

Auditions of Transition Musical

Auditions of the Transition year Musical took place last Tuesday, Nov 26th. We look forward to the exciting new musical that will appear on stage next May.

Summary of Events coming up

Dec 5th – School closed for teacher training day on new Junior Cycle

Dec 12th – Transition Year Show case

Dec 16th – Literacy Week

Dec 19th – Speech Competition

Dec 20th, 11.30am – Carol Service in St. Mary’s church Haddington Road

Dec 20th - End of school term, school finished at 12.15pm

A philosophical thought for the day

“Although people seem to be unaware of it today, the development of the faculty of attention forms the real object and almost the sole interest of studies” - Simone Weil

Yours warmly,



Dr. Declan Kelly

Principal

Phone: 01-6680828

Email: dkelly@johnscottus.ie