



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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25th October, 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

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

How can I let go of the labels I put on other people?

Can you take a break between activities?

Is love the natural in between?

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

Open Day, Thursday Oct 3rd and Sunday Oct 6th.

Our last Open Days were very successful with approximately 350 people attending. The feedback from the event was very positive and we look forward to see many new students enrol in the future.

Erasmus exchange

During the week of Oct 7th John Scottus families hosted 18 students from Latvia, Italy and the Netherlands visiting the school as part of the Erasmus project on Human Rights and Responsibilities. It was a week of great enthusiasm and endeavour from students who produced fantastic videos on various aspects of Human Rights. To read a review of the week from one of the student leaders Jack Bruton, please see [here](#). Special thanks must be given to all the teachers involved in organising the event, namely Ms. Shanahan, Ms. Sweeney and Mr. Bourke.

Numeracy Week

Maths week took place on the week beginning Oct 14th. Various Maths events and competitions were held during the week and the school walls were lined with brain teasers, posters and puzzles to ensure minds were stimulated at every moment.

TY Nepal Trip

An information evening on the forthcoming trip to Nepal took place on Monday Oct 21st for parents of Transition Year students. During the evening an overview of the trip was presented by Mr. Timothy Telford. In addition, we heard from representatives of the the Indreni organisation, our partners in the project, about how valuable their work is to the lives of so many young children who would otherwise not get an opportunity to attend

school.

Class Reps

Our first class representative meeting of the year took place on Monday Oct 14th. If you have not received the minutes of the meeting, please contact your class representative. Please note the parent representatives for each year:

1st Year: Patricia Cronnelly, Carolyn Downer

2nd Year: Fiona Aryan and Neeraj Kumar

3rd Year: Triona Sheeran, Siobhan Free

Transition Year: Siobhan Launder

5th Year: Julie Homan

6th Year: Stephen Bruton, Siobhan Launder

The Parents Association AGM will be held towards the end of November. We will let you know the exact date in due course.

Board of Management

Two new members of the board were formally welcomed to the Board. Stephen Jordan is the new Trustee nominee replacing Michael Spratt and Ting Ting Grace is the teacher representative. We thank the outgoing members, Michael Spratt and Maria Creaney for their huge contribution over the last few years. If you wish to read the latest Board of Management agreed reports please click [here](#).

Academic

Parent Teacher Meetings

Please note the times and dates of the parent teacher meetings

1st year 3.45 to 5.15pm, Thursday Nov 7th

2nd year 5.15 to 6.30pm, Thursday Nov 7th

5th/6th year 3.45 to 5.00pm, Monday Nov 11th

3rd year/TY 5.00pm to 6.15pm, Monday Nov 11th

We look forward to meeting you and your children at these meetings. We find the meetings most beneficial when the students are present, so we also request that they attend to.

Junior Certificate Results 2019

Well done to our Junior Cycle class of 2019 on their excellent results. 50% of all grades at Higher Level were either an A/Distinction or B/Higher Merit. Well done to all students and teachers involved.

November Exams

The first major assessment of the year takes place from Monday November 18th to Wednesday November 20th. Students will sit exams over the three days. Progress reports on learning will be available for viewing in December.

Classroom Based Assessment Schedule for Junior Cycle Students

Students in 2nd and 3rd year of the Junior Cycle will sit a number of Classroom Based Assessments during the course of the year. The grades from these assessments will appear on the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement report. This report summarises learning over the 3 years of the Junior Cycle course.

Study Skills Seminar Day

On Nov 5th, all 3rd and 6th years will be attending a study skills seminar. This will be delivered by Sean Kelly. For further information about Sean Kelly please see [here](#). The cost is €10 per student payable online through the school website.

ICT

Please be mindful of the policy regarding the use of mobile phones and other ICT devices. The policy states that if there is any un-authorised use of ICT devices, the device is confiscated for three days and only the parent can collect it after this period has elapsed. If the parent is unable to collect it, the phone is returned to the student after 7 days.

Absence from school

Please note if your child will be absent from school for reasons other than medical please complete the School Absence Form in advance of the absence. The form is available from the office.

Literacy Strategy

Our Literacy Improvement Strategy has set out four targets.

1. Reduce number of students that dislike reading out loud in class
2. Increase number of students that spend more than an hour per week reading at home
3. Increase confidence about speaking aloud in class
4. Increase numbers of students that check their spelling, grammar and choice of words before submitting written work

To help reach these targets we ask all parents to support reading time at home and to donate any appropriate books for the drop everything and read times.

Transition Year Update

Some of the highlights of the past terms include a photography module, first aid workshop, multimedia design in computer studies, sustainability workshops, fundraisers for the Nepal Trip, work experience, outdoor adventures ([link](#)) and environmental studies week ([link](#)). A busy term for our TY students.

Extra-Curricular

Comortas Beo Finals

Jessica Dingle in 5th year has qualified to perform at the finals of Beo, an Irish language singing competition for people who have composed their own songs. To hear the song please click [here](#).

6th Year Outings

Our 6th years have been busy over the last few weeks going to An Triail at the Axis Art Centre and Theatre ([link](#)), watching Hamlet at the Mill Theatre ([link](#)), visiting the Higher Options Exhibition ([link](#)) and the Geography class going on a field Trip to Shankill beach ([link](#)).

Sports Update

Sport in John Scottus has gotten off to a bright start and as the year progresses a variety of different sporting opportunities, both team based and individual will be made available to students. It is our hope that students of all ages get involved in as many of the wide variety of activities as possible throughout the year. To view the October update please click [here](#).

Sailing

Following the success of last year's sailing club, John Scottus has continued it this year. To view pictures of the latest outing please click [here](#).

Golf

Golf lessons with a golf professional in Old Conna start for interested students in the 3rd week of November. Interested students can contact Ms. Shanahan.

School Menu

The most recent school menu is now published on the web. Please click [here](#) to read it.

Summary of Events coming up

Midterm Break – Oct 28th to Nov 1st

1st and 2nd Year Parent Subject Teacher meetings – Thursday Nov 7th

3rd, TY, 5th and 6th Year Parent Subject Teacher meetings – Monday Nov 11th

Science week begins on Nov 11th

School Exams: Monday Nov 18st to Wed Nov 20th

A philosophical thought for the day

“It is never too late to be what you might have been.” - George Eliot

Yours warmly,



Dr. Declan Kelly

Principal

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