



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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

30th September, 2019

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 all 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:

Can you achieve more than you expect?

Do we practice good habits?

Can you enjoy the moment of stillness between two desires?

Can you give full attention to what is in front of you?

Do negative thoughts and feelings bring endless misery?

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

School Events

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

You and your families and friends are cordially invited to our Open Day on Thursday Oct 3rd and Sunday Oct 6th 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 2019](#)

Or alternatively if you would like to help on the day, please let me know.

Start of Year Church Service

Our start of year church service took place in Rathmichael Parish church on Monday Sept 23rd. It was a very peaceful occasion where moments of stillness and reflection were experienced. During the service, it was great to hear the noble aspirations for the year from students.

6th year Higher Options

Our 6th years visited the Higher Options on Wednesday Sept 18th. This is a great event for our 6th year students to further explore what careers and college courses they wish to pursue.

Upcoming Erasmus exchange

During the week of Oct 7th we will have students from Latvia, Italy and the Netherlands visiting the school as part of the Erasmus project on Human Rights and Responsibilities. Thanks must be given to all the families hosting students. It promises to be a great event.

RSA Visit

On Thursday Sept 12th, a speaker from the Road Safety Authority came to the school and gave excellent workshops to all students on Road Safety.

Academic

Leaving Certificate Results 2019

Well done to our graduating class of 2019 on their excellent results. 50 % of students achieved 455 points or higher. Particular mention must be made of one student, Aisling Spratt, who achieved a maximum of 625 points.

71% of students were offered Level 8 degree courses with the remaining students offered Level 7 courses and further education courses. The destinations are varied with students moving on to study disciplines such as Medicine, Psychology, Music, Business, Engineering, Computers and the Army. Well done to all students and teachers involved.

Sept 27th, School Closed.

You may have a question as to why the school closed on Sept 28th. The school opens for the mandatory 167 days. As we started on the Monday August 26th and finish on Friday May 30th, 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.

Timetable change

During the past week, we had to make some changes to the timetable. New timetables have been issued to all students. Apologies if this causes any issues.

Assessment and Reporting

In mid-October you will receive a report on how your child has engaged in studies since the start of the year. More information on how to access these reports will follow in due course.

Chewing Gum

Please be aware that there is a €25 fine for students who are caught using chewing gum in school. This cost goes to the cleaning of tables and carpets where the gum is found.

Special Education Needs Inspection

During the week of September Sept 9th, the school underwent an evaluation of the use of the special education resources assigned to the school. Thanks to all parents and students who participated in focus groups and who completed the survey. Some initial comments from the inspectors included the standard of teaching being in vast majority very good or good. Indeed, the inspectors reported that they observed some examples of exemplary teaching. The school will receive the full report in the next few weeks and it will be published on the Department of Education and Skills website.

1st year assessments

All 1st years underwent standard CAT4 aptitude testing and NGRT reading tests in the past few weeks. These are used as a base line to monitor academic progress over the next few years. When the results are received, they will be sent to parents.

Class Reps

Our first class representative meeting will take place shortly. The following parent representatives have been appointed:

1st Year: Patricia Cronnelly, Carolyn Downer

2nd Year: Fiona Aryan and Neeraj Kumar

3rd Year: Triona Sheeran, Siobhan Free, Cheri Tyner

Transition Year: Siobhan Launder

There is still a need for parent reps from 5th and 6th year. Please let me know if you are interested. The role involves attending 5 or 6 meetings a year and communicating with parents in your year group on various issues and initiatives.

CSPE/SPHE

For our Junior Cycle students please note they will study both SPHE (Social Personal and Health Education) and CSPE (Civic, Social and Political Education). Please note that these subjects are not studied every week but are rotated over the year.

Extra-Curricular

Founders Day

Our Founders Day consisted of trip to Larch Hill Scout centre. This was an event initiated and led by our 6th year leadership team. It was a great occasion for building school spirit and gave the opportunity to discover more about each other. Thank you to all of the teachers who made this event possible by running a wide range of activities and staying overnight in Larch Hill.

Club Fair and Activities

Our Clubs Fair took place on Thursday Sept 5th. During the fair students had the chance to sign up to the various clubs and extra-curricular activities on offer. The clubs on offer this year include Green Schools, Chess, Art Club, Book Club, Dungeons and Dragons, Coding, Singing, Hockey, Soccer, Sailing, Hiking, Ultimate Frisbee, Socrates, French Club, Gardening, Dance, Yoga and Film. It was great to see such interest from students in the various clubs.

House Lunch

Another initiative from our 6th year leadership was the House Lunches. All students assigned to one of five houses. During the House Lunch the houses comes together to eat and get to know each other. These lunches will happen periodically throughout the year.

TY Lough Dan

Our Transition Year students start the year with a 3 day hike to Lough Dan. By all accounts, it was a great experience and a fantastic team building experience.

A philosophical thought for the day

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail”
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Summary of Events coming up

Open Day, Thursday Oct 3rd and Sunday Oct 6th, 11 to 12.30pm

Junior Cycle Results, Friday Oct 4th

TY work experience: Oct 7th to Oct 11th

1st year HSE vaccinations: Oct 9th

Numeracy Week: Oct 14th to Oct 18th

Midterm Break: Monday Oct 28th to Friday Nov 1st

Yours warmly,



Dr. Declan Kelly

Principal

Phone: 01-6680828

Email: dkelly@johnscottus.ie