



# JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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

TEL: (01) 6680828,

E-MAIL: [SECONDARY@JOHNSCOTTUS.IE](mailto:SECONDARY@JOHNSCOTTUS.IE) WEB: [WWW.JOHNSCOTTUS.IE](http://WWW.JOHNSCOTTUS.IE)

---

June 14, 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The Leaving Certificate exams are well on the way at this stage, and I wish all students strength and stillness to give their full mindful attention to the exams they face.

Here are just a few notices I would like to share with you.

## **Philosophy Themes**

Whole school assemblies have continued online for the past few months. In addition to regular updates on school events, we have explored various questions such as:

*How can you act with the utmost efficiency?*

*What is the effect of the company I keep?*

*Can I accept and let go of negative feelings?*

*What happens when I express gratitude?*

*How do I know what is enough?*

*Can I achieve more than I expect?*

## **Summer Reports**

Summer reports have been published and are now accessible through VS Ware, the student administration system. If you have any issues in using VS Ware, please contact our office, and they will help you

## **Graduating 6<sup>th</sup> Years**

We wish our graduating class of 6<sup>th</sup> year best wishes in their exams and the decisions they will need to make about their future studies. This year, we must mention that four students completed Art college portfolios, and all four students received exceptional marks for their portfolios and were accepted into their chosen Art colleges. Congratulations to our super talented 6<sup>th</sup> year artists, and we wish them all the best in their artistic adventures.

## **Celebration and Prize Giving Event**

Graduation and Prize Giving took place, at an online event, on Friday, May 14. It was an excellent opportunity to celebrate quality learning in the past year. To see the prize winners for each category, please click [here](#).

## **Irish Young Philosophers Awards**

We are delighted to say that a 5<sup>th</sup> year student Costanza Savoia achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the national Irish Young Philosopher Awards. Her project will be published on the IYPA website and the UCD Centre for Ethics in Public Life website. To read her submission,

please click [here](#). Well done, Constanza and her supporting teacher Ms Ni Thuama, on this outstanding achievement.

### **Word Wise**

WorldWise Global schools have once again given John Scottus a significant award, the Diplomatic Passport, for the school's participation in Global Citizenship Education or GCE for short. This year students and teachers have highlighted many Global Issues relevant to students in Ireland but happening around the world. For more information, please click [here](#). Well done to Mr Telford and all teachers and students involved on such a magnificent achievement.

### **Fundraising for cancer and India**

In the past few weeks, we have seen two significant fundraising initiatives spear headed by 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students, the first for Cancer Awareness and the second to help support Indian hospitals. These are two great examples of young people taking a stand and making a difference. Well done to both students for demonstrating outstanding leadership and enthusiasm.

### **Green Schools**

Green-Schools is Ireland's leading environmental management and education programme for schools. We are delighted to say that the school's application for the Green flag has been successful. We thank the Green-Schools team for all their hard work in promoting long-term, whole-school action for the environment. Well done.

### **Garden and Outdoor Classroom**

Our Transition year students, co-ordinated by Ms Swan, have been busily working on the vegetable garden during the past year. The garden pond also has a new resident, named Freddo by our students (picture [here](#)). The next stage will see the addition of a polytunnel. If you have any spare plants, benches or pots, please contact Ms Swan at [sswan@johnscottusoldconna.ie](mailto:sswan@johnscottusoldconna.ie). Great credit must be also given to our Transition Year team and Ms Swan for the great work in developing the outdoor classroom as well as the vegetable garden. Well done.

### **Treacher Student Frisbee Match**

Our 6<sup>th</sup> years kindly invited our teachers for a game of Ultimate Frisbee on their last day of school. The quality of the coaching our students have received from our Sports coaches was evident to see, with the students taking a solid lead. Despite a gallant comeback from the teachers, our 6<sup>th</sup>-year students held on for a victory which brought them great satisfaction! It was a game very much enjoyed by all. To see some pictures, please click [here](#).

### **School Trips**

Our 1<sup>st</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Transition Years and 5<sup>th</sup> years went on several day trips during the last week of school. These trips included hiking in Glendalough and Carrickgallogan, visiting Dublin Zoo, cycling in the Phoenix Park, sailing in Dublin Bay, mountain biking, visiting Dublin Castle and the Epic Immigration Museum.

The feedback from the trips was that all students and teachers thoroughly enjoyed each other's company. Thank you to all the teachers involved, Mr Kortenhorst, Ms Franklin,

M. Grace, Mr Pender, Ms Sweeney, Mr Bourke, Mr Brady, Ms Mhic Chionnaith, Ms Hall, Ms Fisher, Ms Creaney and Ms Ni Thuama. To see some pictures of the activities, please click on the following links.

[2nd and 3rd years visit Glendalough](#)

[Transition Year go Mountain Biking](#)

[5<sup>th</sup> years go to Dublin Castle and Epic Museum](#)

### **Transition Year Update**

The Transition Year students had another eventful year, despite Covid, and managed to create some special memories. It is all captured in our end of year TY showcase, which you can rewatch [here](#). It was impressive to see how this Transition Year group has grown in self-confidence, character, and unity throughout the year. Well done to all involved, in particular, the Transition Year coordinator Mr Telford.

#### *The Twelve Angry Jurors*

The Transition Years made a film this year in the short time they had together following the online phase of school learning. The film is an extract from a famous play, "The Twelve Angry Men", renamed "The Twelve Angry Jurors". Well done, Transition Years and Mr Burns, on producing such a thoughtful film

#### *Gender Equality*

On May 17, two Transition Year students, Jodie McGonigle and Leigh Brady, delivered their presentation on **Gender Equality in the Developing World** to the Minister for State Colm Brophy. Congratulations to both of them for being selected from the many schools participating in the World Wise project.

#### *Gaisce President's Award*

This year seven TY students achieved the President's Award, the highest ever yet in John Scottus. Gaisce or 'great achievement' is a self-development programme for young people between the ages of 15-25 and operates under the patronage of President Higgins. Well done to all students involved and our Gaisce coordinator Ms Sweeney.

#### *Junk Kouture*

Junk Kouture is a fashion competition that challenges the world's most talented emerging designers, engineers, artists and performers to envision, create and model high-end couture from everyday junk! The TY Junk Kouture team 'Pink Summers' got through to the Eastern Regional Finals. Well done to the team involved and their supporting teacher, Ms Sweeney. To read more and see some pictures, please click [here](#).

### **Seachtain na Gaeilge**

Don dara huair, d'imir Covid 19 drochthionchar ar ár gceiliúradh.

*For the second year in a row plans to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge were scuppered by Covid 19!*

Ach d'éirigh linn cuid mhaith a dhéanamh ar aon nós.

*But we ploughed on and I am very grateful to all who played a role in whatever way they could.*

For more details of the various activities during the week, please click [here](#).

## **Physical Education and Sports**

Mr Pender and Ms Sweeney have led a great Sports and PE program during the year, despite the many Covid-19 restrictions. The year culminated in a Sports day with a difference, as students participated in all events with physical distancing in mind. On Friday, May 7, the event took place in our Old Conna grounds in glorious sunshine. The day was a great success, with many great examples of individual and team performance. There was a great spirit and engagement throughout the day as students competed in various competitions. To see some pictures of the event, please click [here](#). Well done to the House Team of Demeter, who won the overall prize, and to all students who won ice creams for their fantastic participation.

## **Planning for next year**

The school expects that the regular school timetable will operate next year. However, please note that the final decision will be dependent on the Department of Education and HSE guidelines given to schools next August. The Board of Management will meet in August, if necessary, to discuss the impact of any public health restrictions on the school's running. Please note the standard finishing time is 3.40 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday the school finishes at 12.45 pm.

### *Catering*

We also expect catering facilities to resume next year. Catering includes a small snack at 10.30 every day and a hot meal on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. On these days lunchtime takes place from 12.45 to 1.35 pm.

### *Extra-curricular activities*

We are also planning an extensive range of extra-curricular activities next academic year. The clubs from previous years include Hockey, Sailing, Hiking, Frisbee, Yoga, Green Schools, Chess, Choir, Socrates, School Magazine, Art, Film, Coding and Gardening.

## **Supervised Study**

The supervised study will take place on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm. On Wednesday, it takes place from 1.30 to 4.00 pm. The fee policy will outline the fees for supervised study,

## **Fee Policy**

The fees policy, and a note from the Board of Management, will be circulated to parents shortly

## **Uniform Review**

The uniform review committee consisting of parents and teachers and our Student Council has been reviewing the uniform in the past few months. As a result, the Board of Management has now approved the following changes:

- The uniform is no longer gender-specific. Students can choose from the list of existing uniform items. Students can therefore choose to wear grey trousers or a blue skirt. In addition, they can choose to wear a blue shirt and tie or the striped blouse

- The boys grey jumper will change to a navy jumper so that all students have one item in common
- There is no requirement to wear a blazer, and students can wear the new school fleece instead
- 5<sup>th</sup> years will wear the school uniform with a white shirt and navy tie to differentiate from younger students. For this year coming, our 6<sup>th</sup> years will continue wearing the suit option but this will be phased out.
- In addition, the school coat has been updated to a style chosen by the students.

Please note that during the transition period of 1 year, students may wear school uniform items already purchased.

### **Management**

The daily management of the school involves a variety of activities, from refining the school's ethos to improving learning and teaching. To help manage all these activities, we had a Senior Management Team comprising Ms Swan, Ms Franklin, Mr Kortenhorst, Mr Telford and myself. Ms Creaney also contributed enormously in managing our learning support provision. In addition, we have our Premises Manager and Bursar Ms Madden who looks after finance, transport and buildings maintenance. I want to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Senior Management Team for all their hard work, enthusiasm and creativity when dealing with the many issues that have arisen.

### **Teaching Staff**

I must thank our teachers in John Scottus for their commitment and dedication. Our teachers in John Scottus are dedicated to empowering the greatness in our students. Indeed we are very fortunate to have fantastic, enthusiastic, caring teachers who work tirelessly to support every student. Thank you.

### **Communications**

We endeavour to ensure good communication through the school community using parent meetings, the website, parent newsletters, class representative meetings, Board of Management meetings and staff meetings. Your input is greatly appreciated, and we greatly encourage parents to participate in the various structures in place.

### **Administration and support staff.**

We are very fortunate to have excellent support staff in Ms Telford and Ms Griffin as administrative support, Mr Farren as the groundsman, Mr Mc Guirk as caretaker and Ms Salmon and Ms Flynn in cleaning. Thank you

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

Start of school – Monday, August 30

Start of year meeting with Principal and Class Teachers- Thursday, September 2

### **Philosophical thought for the day**

*"Forever – is composed of Nows" – Emily Dickinson*

There is a considerable team effort involved in running a school, and I thank all teachers and support staff for their daily commitment to the welfare of our students. But, of course, none of this would be possible without your children, thank you, parents.

I hope you and yours have a restful summer delighting in the present, and we look forward to seeing you again in August.

Yours warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Declan Kelly".

Dr. Declan Kelly

Principal

Phone: 01-6680828

Email: [dkelly@johnscottusoldconna.ie](mailto:dkelly@johnscottusoldconna.ie)