



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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March 25, 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We have arrived at the end of the Spring term, a term very different from regular school, where online learning and teaching has dominated. I must take this opportunity to applaud both students and teachers on adapting with enthusiasm and creativity. Hopefully, we will see all students returning to regular school after Easter.

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

Philosophy Themes

Whole school assemblies have continued online for the past month. In addition to regular updates on school events, we have explored various questions such as:
How do you encourage the rise of reason?
What is that which never changes?
How do I calm myself?

Return to school

Our 6th year students have been in school for four weeks and 5th years two weeks; both groups have enjoyed the return immensely. We look forward to seeing the rest of our students return on the expected date of April 12. To ensure our school community's health, physical distancing, face masking wearing, hand hygiene, and cleaning protocols will continue to be in place.

We also ask each student to complete the Return to Educational Facility Parent Declaration Form in advance of the April 12th date. Please find the form [here](#).

[Return to Educational Facility Declaration Form](#)

Spring Reports

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

Summer Assessment

Students from 1st to 5th year will sit summer assessments during the final term. These are important assessments and provide evidence of the learning that has taken place in the past year.

These assessments will be scheduled for students from 1st year, 2nd year and Transition Year during regular class time. The assessments will occur at various times during the last term and will be completed by May 21.

Students from 3rd and 5th year will sit exams over four days from May 17 to May 20. There will be two exams per day, mostly of two hours duration. We will share the schedule of exams with students after Easter.

Extra-Curricular activities on Wednesday afternoon

It is expected that Wednesday afternoon sport will continue as usual after Easter, within the parameters of HSE Covid-19 restrictions. We look forward to offering more activities in the future, as we recognise it as an essential part of a John Scottus Education.

School end of term

Friday, May 28, is now the official end date of the academic year. This date is a week earlier than stated in the school calendar. The Department of Education has asked schools to finish a week earlier than usual to ensure the estimated grades process for the 6th years is completed by Friday, June 4.

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 Grace Cunnane, and our new Head Boy is Adam Free. Also, students have put themselves forward for other leadership roles, namely:

Games Captains – Saffron Bardin and Zoe Hoffman

Music Captains – Colm Woods and Rose Yoder

Wellbeing Coordinators – Oscar Banda and Caitlin Doecke-Launders

Clubs and Events Coordinators – Anita Ryan and Claire Kelly

House Team Coordinators – Jennifer McMullan and Ben Lynch

We look forward to working with them on their various initiatives.

World Sanskrit Award

Our previous school newsletter shared the news that the Indian Council of Cultural Relations has awarded Rutger Kortenhorst the prestigious World Sanskrit Award 2020.

An online celebration honouring Rutger Kortenhorst will occur at 2.00 pm Sunday, April 4, to mark the occasion. The zoom link for the event is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82183120655>

Meeting ID: 82183120655

Hopefully, you can make the occasion.

Robert Mulhall – Past Pupil shares experiences

Robert Mulhall is a former student and one of the first students to attend John Scottus. He started in 1985 in the first class of 4 students and graduated in 1998. Robert is now living in New York with his wife and family and is the acting CEO of a Yoga and Health Centre. At a workshop on February 23, he shared his experiences about his school days and how he ended up in New York. Hopefully, the talk gave students some ideas on their future careers and how they can change the world.

Irish Times Article

Do you wish to know more about how many teenagers are struggling with Covid-19 isolation? You may be interested in reading an article published in the Irish Times by Ms Hall, a school staff member. You can read the article [here](#). It is well worth a read!

Dancing through Lockdown

On February 25, our students participated in a celebration of dance. They all attended an online workshop where a very inspiring dance teacher taught them the Jerusalema dance. Well done to our PE department for organising this fun event.

World Book Day

For International Women's Day, March 7, and World Book Day, March 4, Alana Kirk (alanakirk.ie) gave a workshop on empowerment and writing. She is a journalist and best-selling author of "The Sandwich Years". Hopefully, it has given our students some insights on empowerment and motivated a few of them to begin writing their own stories.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge started on March 8. To start the event, Ms Mhic Chionnaith gave the start of the week assembly. As it happened, it was also International Women's Day on March 8. In a fascinating assembly, she explored the topics of the Irish language and women and how we speak about both. During the week, an Irish quiz took place over Kahoot. In addition, our students also participated in a workshop run by Conradh na Gaeilge which explored the Irish language, language rights, 3rd level courses with Irish, career opportunities with Irish, Irish in your area, Irish and social media, and debunking the myths that surround Irish.

Typing Competition

Touch typing is an invaluable skill that can increase the speed and effectiveness of using technology. To develop this skill, we have organised a touch-typing competition for students. The first prize is €75. The details of how to join the competition have been emailed to all students.

Uniform Review

The uniform review committee has met several times already, and our Student council have also been part of the consultation process. The Board of Management will consider these recommendations at their next meeting, and we will inform you accordingly.

Catering

Following on from parents' requests about possible catering options during the summer term, we organised a survey of parents to determine how many would be interested in ordering and getting food delivered from the company SLUNCHBOX (www.slunchbox.com). Unfortunately, the number of parents who expressed interest was not enough to meet the company's minimum number for delivery.

Summary of Events coming up

Monday, April 12 – Start of the summer term

Monday, May 3 – Bank Holiday, school closed

Friday, May 7 – Sports Day
Friday, May 28 – End of Term

A philosophical thought for the day

"There is nothing good or ill but thinking makes it so". – William Shakespeare

Wishing you a peaceful Easter.
Yours warmly,

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

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