



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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September 30, 2021

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?
Does Perfect Practice make Perfect?
Why Pause?
Can I give full attention?

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

Parent Representative for the Board of Management

I have sent an email separately asking for nominations for a parent representative position on the school's Board of Management. If you are interested in nominating yourself, please get in touch with me by Monday, October 4.

Parent Reps

Our first parent representative meeting will take place on Monday, October 4. Each class have appointed the following parent representatives:

1Y: Ciara OConnor, Lesley Kenny- Osborne, Jilly Clarkin, Stacy Deasy
2Y: Mary Mc Cabe, Niamh Van de Bergh
3Y: Patricia Cronnelly, Carolyn Downer
TY Richard Marshall, Fiona Ayran
5Y Simon Tyner, Iryna Buksha
6Y: Siobhan Free, Ruth Yoder, Siobhan Launderers

Covid-19

This is a reminder of covid symptoms to look out for the symptoms of coronavirus (which includes the DELTA variant):

Common symptoms of coronavirus include:

- a fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above).
- a new cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry.

- shortness of breath or breathing difficulties.
- loss or change in your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- Fatigue
- Aches and Pains

Other uncommon symptoms of coronavirus include:

- sore throat
- headaches
- runny or stuffy noses
- feeling sick or vomiting
- diarrhoea

If a student is showing signs of any of these symptoms the protocol is to send them to the isolation room and phone home for them to be collected. We advise at this point to follow the HSE guidelines.

Student should also bring 2 masks each day that are appropriate sizes for their faces.

School Events

Charity Football Tournament

Our Transition Year students are organising a charity football tournament for all students. The event will raise funds for the Soly Haiti charity, which supports girls in Haiti in period poverty and sexual health awareness. The event will run all next week during lunchtime. We look forward to some exciting games of football.

Junior Cycle Information Night

Our Junior Cycle Head, Mr Timothy Telford, will host an information night on the new Junior Cycle on Tuesday, October 12 at 7.00 pm. He will give an overview of the curriculum changes and assessment methodologies of the Junior Cycle.

The meeting will be held online over Zoom. The link to join the meeting is:

Topic: Junior Cycle Assessment Information evening

Time: Oct 12, 2021 07:00 PM Dublin

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/8630707260?pwd=NzhUQXNzbGtMWFB2N0J6QzRpd0NqUT09>

Meeting ID: 863 070 7260

Passcode: 642211

1st year enrollment August 2022

We will be enrolling two 1st year classes again in August 2022. The window for applications for enrollment into the 1st year of August 2022 is between October 1 and October 23. Our admissions policy gives preference to siblings and children coming

from the John Scottus Primary schools. If you are interested in enrolling a sibling, please ensure an application form is submitted by October 23, as we expect the number of applications to exceed the number of places available.

Bulb Appeal

Our Transition Years, led by Ms Swan, are planting bulbs in our sensory gardens. If you can help by donating any bulbs, please drop them into school for the attention of Ms Swan.

Bus Transport

There have been several requests about bus service from North Wicklow. To help determine if there is enough demand to make it feasible, we ask you to express your interest by completing the form [here](#).

Academic

Leaving Certificate Results 2021

Well done to our graduating class of 2021 on their excellent results. The median number of points was 477; 50% of students achieved 477 points or higher. I must mention one student, Emily Mason, who received a maximum of 625 points.

In addition, in over 50% of higher-level results, students achieved a H1 (over 90%) or H2 (over 80 %). These are impressive results, and we congratulate the tremendous work of our students in the challenging circumstances of the past two years.

81% (9 out of 11) students were offered Level 8 degree courses, with the remaining students offered Level 7 courses and further education courses. Eight of the students were offered their first choice, and the remaining three their second choice. The destinations are varied, with students moving on to study Art and Design, Science, Engineering, Veterinary and Business. Indeed mention must be made that four students are now studying Art and Design in NCAD. Well done to all students and teachers involved.

Assessment and Reporting

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

1st-year assessments

All 1st years will sit a standard CAT4 aptitude testing and NGRT reading tests in the next few weeks. These are used as a baseline to monitor academic progress over the next few years. When the school receives the results, we will send them to parents.

September 27, School Closed.

You may have a question as to why the school closed on September 27. The school opens for the mandatory 167 days. The school year started on Monday, August 30 and will finish on Friday, June 3. There is one day to allocate as a holiday and we decided to break up the first half term, which is nine weeks long, with a long weekend.

CSPE/SPHE

Our Junior Cycle students will study 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 taught on different weeks over the year.

Prime Minister of India and Rutger Kortenhorst

Addressing the nation through the 80th edition of Mann Ki Baat, his monthly radio programme, on Sunday, the Prime Minister of India highlighted the "inspiring work" being done by people across the world in researching the Sanskrit language. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the Sanskrit language plays an important role in strengthening cultural ties between India and other countries. "One such name is Mr Rutger Kortenhorst, a well-known Sanskrit scholar and teacher in Ireland," said Prime Minister Modi, adding a word about the pioneering research being done by the head of Sanskrit at the John Scottus Senior School in Ireland. For more information, please follow the [link](#). Well done Mr Kortenhorst.

6th Year Geography Field Study

Our 6th years completed their geography field study on Thursday, Sept 30. To see some pictures of their work please click [here](#).

Extra-Curricular

Founders Day

Our Founders Day celebrating the founding values of the school took place on Friday, September 24. The event was initiated and led by our 6th year leadership team. It was an excellent occasion for building school spirit and provided great opportunities for discovering more about each other. We must commend all 6th year students and supporting teachers for such a well organised and inspiring event. To see some pictures of the event, please click [here](#).

Reusable Water Bottles

The Green School Committee has been leading the "single use plastic free" bottle initiative. There are several reusable water bottles still available at €12 each. If you would like to purchase a bottle, please pay online at the school website.

Club Fair and Activities

Our extra-curricular activities are currently restricted due to current public health measures. However, Soccer and hockey take place on Wednesday afternoon and are very well attended. We soon hope to organise other activities and will let you how events develop.

Transition Year Trip Lough Dan

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

Philosophical thought for the day

'If you fell down yesterday, stand up today' – HG Wells

Summary of Events coming up

Junior Cycle Information Night, Tuesday, October 12, 7.00 pm

Numeracy Week: October 11 to October 15

Midterm Break: Monday, October 25 to Friday 29

Yours warmly,

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

Dr. Declan Kelly

Principal

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