



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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December 17, 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We have arrived at the end of a very eventful first term. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their dedication during the first term: students, parents, teachers, staff and extended school community. Here are just a few notices I would like to share with you.

Please note that the term will finish at 11.45 next Wednesday, December 22.

Assessment Results

The November assessment results are available for viewing on the student administration system VS Ware. They are the first of the three primary assessments that take place each year. The assessments in each subject assess the learning taking place since the start of the year and indicate learning progress to date.

Christmas Events

Our 6th-year leadership team has been highly creative and enthusiastic about organising events for Christmas under the current restrictions in place. The events organised include Candy Cane Santa, Talent Competition, Door Decoration Competition, Carol Singing and Christmas Dress up. A huge congratulations to all involved for raising the spirits of all students during this Christmas period.

Collection for Five Loaves

Our collection for the W.H Five Loaves homeless charity in Bray has begun. Thank you for the generous donations so far. Each year group have boxes in their classrooms. The charity is looking for non-perishable foods and warm adulting clothing- no children's clothing this year.

Instrumental Lessons

It is hoped to establish instrumental music lessons in the school for the next term. There seems to be great interest in this venture and the prospect of having the strains of music heard throughout the school!

The instruments taught will depend on demand and the viability of bringing outside teachers into the school. We are fortunate to have at least two music schools in the Bray area, and it should be possible to attract a variety of instrumental teachers to the school if there is sufficient demand. These lessons will take place after school. If you are interested, please express your interest using the [Instrumental Survey Link](#)

Transition Year Update

The Transition Year students held a fantastic showcase on Thursday, December 16, of the wonderful things students have accomplished in the last three months. The students have participated in work experience, photography, raising €850 for Soley Haiti Charity in Nepal, a Bodhrán workshop, Friday adventures and many other activities.

Well done to all students involved and to the Transition Year Coordinator, Mr Telford.

Here are some links illustrating the various activities they have been involved in recently.

Fundraising for Environmental Studies - [link](#)

Rock Climbing - [link](#)

Trip to Botanic Gardens - [link](#)

Wreath Making - [link](#)

Photography Module - [link](#)

Sports Update

After a slow start to the year due to Covid restrictions, sport is JSS is finally kicking off. Our Soccer and Hockey clubs are happening after school every Wednesday from 1:15 - 2:15, and great numbers have been attending this year. Our Frisbee and Basketball clubs train at lunchtime on Tuesdays and Fridays, respectively.

Our 1st and 2nd year students have been attending Athletics events since the beginning of the year, and this will be open to older years when further cross country and track events happen after Christmas.

The first round of our Soccer League was due to be played on December 8. Unfortunately, the school was closed due to adverse weather. We look forward to a series of games against schools in the area.

Our Junior Girls Hockey Team had their first game of the season on Thursday, December 16. The game is a practice game in preparation for the Hockey League we are entered in that will begin in the new year.

Erasmus Grant

We are delighted that under the direction of Ms Shanahan, the school has successfully applied for a European Erasmus grant to develop innovative teaching methods in the area of Sustainable Fashion. This project will support student workshops in Iceland, Greece, Malta and Spain. Funding will be available for some Business students to travel to Europe (when safe to do so). Previous exchanges with schools in Sicily, Riga, and Holland have been very positive. The project is an excellent opportunity for our students to work collaboratively with students from different countries.

Online Conference Barry Andrews MEP

The 5th and 6th Year Business classes took part in an online conference hosted by Barry Andrews MEP from Brussels on the future of Europe. Nineteen other schools in Ireland took part. During a very enjoyable two-hour interactive session, the students discussed Migration, Sustainability, Gender, and Climate Change topics. To see some pictures of the event, please click [here](#).

Digital Wellbeing & Online Safety Talk – December 9

[Cybersafekids](#) facilitated a workshop on Digital well-being and Online Safety on December 9. They discussed topics such as types of misinformation online, targeted advertising, quizzes and scams, image and digital well being, personal information and having a positive digital footprint. For more information about them, please visit their website at [Cybersafekids](#).

Eco Bottle

The John Scottus Green schools committee prohibited single-use plastic bottles several years ago for environmental reasons. At the same time, we sourced a high-quality hydroflask emblazoned with the John Scottus School logo to offer to incoming students to the school. They were very popular amongst new students last year.

The hydroflask is a high-quality thermos bottle that keeps liquids hot or cold and is made from high quality, sustainable materials. Similar bottles ordinarily retail for much more, but with a grant the school received last year, we can offer this flask to students for €12 per bottle, which is payable online on the John Scottus website. This might be a good stocking filler for Christmas.

Host Families

A number of agencies have contacted the school enquiring about families who would be interested in hosting an international student. If you are interested in hosting please contact the school office.

Summary of Events coming up

End of Term – 11.45 pm, Wednesday, December 22

School Re-opens – Thursday, January 6

Parent-Class Teacher Meetings – Monday, January 10

Philosophy Week – Starting Monday, January 24

School Closed for Junior Cycle Teacher Training – Monday, February 14

Mock Exams for 3rd and 6th years – Thursday, February 11 to Friday, February 18

Exam Week for 1st, 2nd, TY and 5th years – February 16 to February 18

Mid-term Break – February 21 to February 25

Philosophical thought for the day

“Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment” – Buddha

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas with your families this year. We hope everyone stays safe, and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Yours warmly,



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