



# JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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April 6, 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We have arrived at the end of the Spring term, a term where Covid public health restrictions have been lifted and school life has returned to normal. Students have started using lockers, moving around classrooms, using the canteen, and returning to more group-based collaborative learning.

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:

What is the effect of the Pause and Meditation?

What is real strength?

Do I make decisions for the benefit of all?

Is happiness always present?

What is the effect of the company I keep?

## **Spring Reports**

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

## **Summer Assessment**

Students from 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Transition and 5<sup>th</sup> year will sit summer assessments during the final term. These essential assessments will provide evidence of the learning that has taken place in the past year. The exams will take place the week of May 23, and students will receive the exam schedule after Easter. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years will sit the Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate exams in June, starting Wednesday, June 8.

## **Student Leadership Team - Head Girl and Boy**

The interview for our Student Leadership team took place in February. It is great to see our students put themselves forward for leadership positions. Our new Head Girl is Daisy Tyner, and our new Head Boy is Nickolas Buksha. Also, students have put themselves forward for other leadership roles, namely:

Deputy Head – Jodie Mc Gonigle and Andrew Hastings Rafferty

Sports Captain – Buajan Yosakorn

Well-being Co-ordinator – Leigh Brady

Prefects – Elijah Allen, Virginia Asselborne, Avaleigh Kelleher, Stephen Murphy, Jacob

Kharsieva O'Rahilly

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

### **Child Safeguarding Statement**

The annual review of the Child Safeguarding statement took place last March. For your information, a copy can be found at the link [Child Safeguarding Statement](#).

### **Transport Options for 2022/2023**

For those who wish to avail of the city centre bus or the shuttle bus to the Shankill Dart/Brides Glen Luas, please return the Transport Form attached before May 15. The transport Form is attached to this newsletter.

### **Padma Shri Award – Mr Kortenhorst**

On the weekend of March 27, Mr Kortenhorst travelled over to India to receive the Padma Shri Award from the President of India. Mr Kortenhorst received this very prestigious award for his work in the education of Sanskrit. Well done, Mr Kortenhorst.

### **Head Boy representing Ireland**

Adam Free, our 6<sup>th</sup> Year Head Boy, travels to Madrid to participate in the International Cerebral Palsy World Cup. He is representing Ireland in the upcoming finals, and I wish him the best of luck. Well done Adam!

### **Traffic**

This is just a gentle reminder that cars leaving the Old Conna campus should yield to traffic coming in from the main road.

As part of their project on traffic, the Transition Year students measured the speed of vehicles on Ferndale Road on the morning of March 23. The highest speed clocked was 80kmph! The students will be using the data collected to work on raising awareness about the dangers of this road. They will be speaking with local authorities, councillors and An Garda Síochána to help make our road and school a safer place for all.

### **Transition Year Update**

Here are some links illustrating the various activities our Transition Year students have been involved in recently.

Europe Food Day - [link](#)

Zig Zag hike in Wicklow - [link](#)

Escape Rooms - [link](#)

Awesome trip to Qzar and Bowling - [link](#)

Incredible trip to Zipit! - [link](#)

Easter Egg Hunt for our friends in the Old Conna Primary School - [link](#)

### **School Events**

#### **House Team Activity Day**

Our student leadership team organised a fantastic activity day for all our students on

Wednesday, April 6. It was a great event that revitalised the House system we had before Covid. The House structure divides students into six house groups, with students from 1st to 6th year in each group. Students participated in frisbee, football, musical chairs, tag rugby, dodge ball and capture the flag. I must congratulate the leadership team on such a fantastic event. To see some pictures of the event, please click [here](#).

### **Seachtain na Gaeilge**

Seachtain na Gaeilge is a national 17 day long festival highlighting our national language and culture. To read more about how we celebrated it in John Scottus and see some pictures, please click [here](#).

### **Ukraine Appeal**

Our students raised €327 for UNICEF Ireland to help Ukranian refugees. Thank you all for your extremely generous donations.

### **Speech and Prize Giving – Thursday, May 19**

For the first time since 2019, the Speech and Prize Giving event will occur in the school on Thursday, May 19. This is an important event where the school community comes together and celebrates student achievements in the past year.

Given the current public health situation and to keep the event as inviting as possible, we will be holding the event outside the front of the building. In previous years we have used a marquee, but this year we will hold the event outside without the aid of a marquee. The event will start at 5.00 pm and will finish at approximately 6.30 pm, and hopefully, it will be warm on the day. In the situation of very adverse conditions, we will have to postpone the event. Hopefully, the rain will stay away. Please save the date in your diary

### **School Photograph**

We have scheduled the school photograph of each year group to take place on Thursday, May 5. Please ensure your child has all the required school uniform for the day. For the photo, all students should be wearing the navy v-neck jumper which is our formal uniform that will be used for photographs and formal events. Please note that the same dress code applies to the Speech and Prize Giving event.

### **Worldwise Global Schools Seminar**

On Thursday, April 7, the Global Citizenship Education Committee students attended the Worldwise Global Schools Seminar. The seminar's theme was "Degrowth: Uniting Students for Radical Change". The event took place online with offline activities during the day. During the day, the students considered questions such as:

Do people matter as much as profit?

Is our society more than just an economy?

Are people and the planet interconnected?

For countries to thrive, does our world or climate have to suffer?

It was a fantastic event that brought young people across Ireland to explore possible solutions to these crucial questions.

### **Model Council of Europe Debate**

The 5th year Business class took part in the Model Council of Europe Debate on March 3 under the guidance of Ms Shanahan. This is a simulation of proposals in the Council of Europe where all 27 countries were represented. John Scottus Secondary School represented Luxembourg. The topic for discussion was asylum and migration management. All 5th-year Business students contributed to this discussion. However, Isobel Coffey and Andrew Hastings Rafferty took part in the debate on the day. Congratulations to both Isobel and Andrew on an outstanding contribution.

## **Extra-Curricular Activities**

### ***Table Tennis***

Our new table tennis has arrived and provides excellent entertainment to students during the break. A special thanks to Ms Hall for sourcing the table.

### ***Athletics***

In Athletics, our attention now turns to track and field. The first event, the Wicklow Invitational, took place this week. Our students showed fantastic skills in the Wicklow Invitational this week. To read more, please click [here](#). Our athletes will also compete in the East Leinster Championship in the summer term.

### ***Hockey***

Our Junior girl's hockey team had their third game of the year last week, losing out narrowly. However, the girls' performance was very promising, and they are looking forward to more training and matches in the final term. To help coach the teams, we have brought in a new dedicated hockey coach, Linda Broaders.

### ***Soccer***

Our boy's soccer team continues to train every Wednesday. Our next game is away to Nord Anglia, and this will take place on our return from Easter break.

### ***Soccer Coaching Course***

Sixteen students from 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Transition Year participated in a soccer coaching course. Based on the feedback, the students learned many new skills on how to play and coach.

### ***Basketball***

Our 1<sup>st</sup>-year basketball team has made great progress over the past few weeks. The team recently won their second game in a row, and more matches are due to take place after Easter. To read match reports of their two games, please click [here](#) and [here](#).

### ***Horse Riding***

Our horse-riding club has had a lovely block of lessons down at a local riding school over the past number of weeks. This is something that we will definitely run in the future.

### ***Sailing***

Sailing will resume after Easter. This will be limited initially to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>-year students, but this will change in the future, so keep an ear out.

### ***Instrumental Lessons***

It has been a great success running the after-school Piano lessons for the last term. As we have also had a significant interest in students learning guitar, we have organised a guitar teacher to come in to facilitate this. This will be facilitated as a group lesson and run as a 5-week term beginning after Easter. The days we have organised are Fridays from 12.55-1.35. Please get in touch with Ms Williams or Mr Kerr to express your interest.

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

Active School Week, Tuesday, May 3  
Sports Day – Friday, May 6  
Speech and Prize Giving – Thursday, May 19  
6th-year graduation and final day – Friday, May 20  
End of year exams – Week of May 23  
Class Trips – Week of May 30  
Last day of school – 11.30 am, Friday, June 3,

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

"For every minute you are angry you lose sixty seconds of happiness"  
– Ralph Waldo Emerson

Yours warmly,



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