



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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

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June 3, 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We have arrived at the end of the academic year, and hopefully, we have seen the last of Covid public health restrictions in schools. Our 3rd and 6th-year students start exams next week, and I wish all students the strength and stillness to give their full 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 for the past few months. In addition to regular updates on school events, we have explored various questions such as:

Can I accept and let negative feelings?

What thoughts and feelings do you keep in your heart?

Does practice bring progress?

What stops me from succeeding?

Summer Assessment

Students from the 1st, 2nd, and 5th years completed summer assessments last week. In addition, 2nd-year students completed standardised tests in Maths and Literacy. We will share feedback from these assessments with you in the coming weeks.

Graduating 6th Years

We wish our graduating class of 6th year best wishes in their exams and the decisions they will need to make about their future studies. I know they will make a considerable impression and contribution wherever they go.

School Policies

The Board of Management and teaching staff review various policies every year. The Substance Use Policy, Guidance and Counselling, SPHE and RSE and Homework Policy have been reviewed in the past year. The updated policies and all other school policies can be found on the school website [here](#).

Board of Management

The school Board of Management consist of two parents, two staff members and four nominations from the Board of Trustees. The Board meet approximately every six weeks to discuss and review various aspects of the school. The Board creates "Agreed Reports" from these meetings to summarise topics discussed, and for dissemination to the school community, These agreed reports can be found on the school website [here](#).

School Fee increase

The school does receive a grant from the Department of Education and Skills based on the number of students enrolled, which covers the costs of several teachers. However, all other costs are covered by the school fee. These fees are used to pay for teacher salaries, catering costs, administration costs, building and maintenance costs and transport costs. In the past few years, costs have risen with inflation, and as a result, there is now the need to increase the fee. At the recent Board of Management meeting on June 1, the Board agreed to increase the school fee for Jonh Scottus School to €5,500 for the 2022/23 year – an increase of €200 (3.7%). There will be no increase in the catering charge of €600. Transport fees have also been raised to take into account the significant rise in fuel prices. These increases have been kept to the minimum while maintaining the school's high standard of service. For your information, a letter from the treasurer of the Board of Management is being sent along with this newsletter.

Transition Year

Transition Year students have had a busy past few months. Various highlights from the past few months include the Driver Education course, Soccer coaching, developing the outdoor garden and gum, the Junk Kouture competition, and numerous outdoor adventures.

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

[End of year class trip to Galway](#)

[Visit to Jumpzone](#)

[TYs Patch Up Our Planet Fair 2022](#)

[Europe Food Day](#)

[Zig Zag hike in Wicklow](#)

School Events

School Events

There have been many school events during the year, including Founders Day, parent meetings, Open Days, Halloween, Dress up, Christmas Talent Show, House Activity Day, Sports Day, Speech competition, and Prize Giving. There are many posts on the website illustrating these events, and I hope you get the chance to read some of them.

Our school leadership team was instrumental in organising many of these events, and I must congratulate all involved for demonstrating such great leadership qualities in uniting the school and lifting the school spirit.

Celebration and Prize Giving Event

Graduation and Prize Giving took place on Friday, May 19. It was an excellent opportunity to celebrate quality learning in the past year. To see the prize winners for each category, please click [here](#).

Speech Competition

On Friday, May 13, we all gathered, united once again, to be entertained and delighted by the thoughts, ruminations and observations of our great and brave students on a

purpose-built stage. The speeches were diverse and gave us an insight into issues and concerns the students had in many areas.

The winner of the Junior Competition was Will Keating, from second year, with his entertaining speech on "*Why Marvel Movies are bad*", and Grace Cunnane, the outgoing Head Girl, (from sixth year) raised the Senior plaque for her speech on "*Why Rom Com is the best Genre*".

All participants were fantastic and deserved fervent applause. To read more details about the event, please click [here](#).

We also congratulate Elijah Allen on winning the annual writing competition. To read more about this competition, please click [here](#).

Teacher Student Frisbee Match

Our 6th years kindly invited our teachers for a game of Ultimate Frisbee during their last week of school. Despite a gallant comeback from the students, our 6th-year students held on for a victory which brought them great satisfaction! It was a game very much enjoyed by all.

School Trips

Our 1st year, 2nd year, Transition Years and 5th years went on an end of year class trip to Carlingford, Galway and Clare. 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, Mr Telford, Ms Williams, Mr Maleveci, Ms Sweeney, Mr Bourke, Mr Burns, Mr Brady, Ms Mhic Chionnaith and Ms Hall. To see some pictures, please click in the following.

[1st and 2nd year trip to Carlingford](#)

[1st and 2nd year trip to Glendalough](#)

[TY class trip to Galway](#)

[5th year trip to Galway and Claire](#)

Theme weeks

During the year, there have been many theme weeks focusing on particular academic, personal, and social development aspects. These have included: Science Week, Stand-up Week, Literacy Week, Philosophy Week and Seachtain na Gaeilge. Thank you to all the respective teachers and students for organising and engaging in the various theme weeks

Global Citizen Education

One of the themes throughout the school is exploring how to become a global citizen, understand more the deeper connection between all people, and the need to base our actions on the principle of "May all be Happy".

In the past few months, we have seen several significant fundraising initiatives. Various students have organised events to help raise funds for Soley Haiti, 5 Loves, Indreni in Nepal, Ukraine and Pieta House These fundraising events are great examples of young

people taking a stand and making a difference. Well done to the students involved for demonstrating outstanding leadership and enthusiasm.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular clubs and activities

John Scottus school considers extra-curricular clubs essential to well-being and a sense of belonging. An extensive range of extra-curricular activities was organised this year by various teachers.

The clubs included: Basketball games with Mr Malavevic, Hockey with Ms Broader, Soccer, Athletics with Ultimate Frisbee with Ms Pender, Choir and Instrumental music with Ms Williams, Board games with Mr Burns, Drama with Ms Maguire Timmins, Sailing with Mr Bourke, Gardening with Ms Swan, Table Tennis with Ms Hall and Horse Riding with Ms Williams. Well done to all students and teachers for getting involved in the various clubs and bringing great energy and enthusiasm,

Physical Education and Sports

Mr Pender, Mr Maleveci and Ms Sweeney have led a great Sports and PE program during the year. The year culminated in a brilliant Sports day on Tuesday, May 10, the event took place on our Old Conna grounds in glorious sunshine. The day was a great success, with great individual and team performances. There was a great spirit and engagement as students competed in various competitions throughout the day. Well done to the House Teams of Aphrodite and Hera, who won the overall joint first prize, and all students who won ice creams for their fantastic participation. To see some pictures of the event, please click [here](#).

Music

We welcome the long-awaited return of Musical clubs in February. Music clubs in singing and mini-orchestra have been meeting every week. Instrumental lessons in various instruments were also introduced. I must give special thanks to Ms Williams for organising these activities.

Our 2nd years also deserve a huge congratulations for concert 'All the music in one place' which featured a selection of different genres. To see some pictures from the performance, please click [here](#).

School Management

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 Pender, Mr Telford and myself. Ms Creaney also contributed enormously to 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.

New Management Team

After five years of dedicated service, Ms Franklin has decided to resume full-time teaching of English, Philosophy and SPHE at John Scottus school. It is hard to summarise in a few words what Ms Franklin has brought to the school leadership, but the words that come to mind are dedication, commitment and compassion

I am delighted to announce that Mr Telford will take over the role of Deputy Principal. I am confident he will continue the great work of Ms Franklin and help develop the school as it continues to expand.

I am also delighted to announce that Mr Bourke will take over the role of Transition Year co-ordinator. Mr Bourke has already spent much time planning an exciting and demanding Transition Year programme that will help will encourage our students to develop independence, resilience and responsibility.

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.

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 Mc Guirk as caretaker and Ms Salmon and Ms Flynn in cleaning. Thank you

Catering

We were delighted to re-introduce catering into the school this year. As part of the ongoing process to refine the service, a student food committee meets regularly, and surveys on food are conducted on an annual basis. A special thanks must be given to the Catering team of Ann, Niamh and Tracy for their creativity in producing tasty food.

Summary of Events coming up

Start of school – Monday, August 29, finish at 12.50 pm

Start of year meeting with Principal and Class Teachers- Thursday, September 1

Parents AGM – Thursday, September 15

Founders Day – Friday, September 23

Philosophical thought for the day

"It's always Now" – Eckhart Tolle

Yours warmly,

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

Dr. Declan Kelly

Principal

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