



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

OLD CONNA, FERNDALE ROAD, RATHMICHAEL, CO. DUBLIN.
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Oct 26, 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope your sons and daughters have had an enjoyable first two months of 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:

Is there always a way forward?
How can I speak the truth pleasantly?
Can we achieve more than we expect?

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

Parent Teacher Meetings

I hope you found the parent-teacher meetings helpful, giving you some sense of how your child's learning is progressing. The remaining parent-teacher meetings for 2nd year will take place as follows:

2A – Tuesday, Nov 8
2B – Thursday, Nov 10

Traffic

From Nov 14, Irish Water will carry out road works on Ferndale Road until March. Ferndale Road users will have to take diversions via Rathmichael initially. We will pass on information from Irish Water as we receive it.

Bus Transport

There has been a considerable response about bus service from North Wicklow. However, bus hire costs are very costly, and we will be in touch with the parents who responded with the fee necessary to make the service financially viable.

PISA Study

The Department of Education selected the school to participate in the European-wide PISA (Programme for International Assessment study). Students aged 15 sat a series of assessments in reading, literacy, science and Maths. We will share any feedback we get from the study.

Visiting School

Just a reminder, if you have come to school to visit a teacher, collect a child or drop off an item, please go to the office first.

Junior Cycle Results 2023

Please note that the Junior Cycle results are due on Wednesday, Nov 23.

School Events

Halloween

Our 6th-year leadership team organised a Halloween-themed dress-up on Friday, Oct 28. They also organised a cinema fundraiser for the school defibrillator. Well done to all students involved for showing great initiative and raising the school spirit.

CPR Training Oct 27

The CPR4 Schools campaign runs for October to promote healthy heart awareness. On Oct 27, Ms Swan trained all year groups on how to do hands-only CPR. We must thank Ms Swan for giving our students such an important life skill.

Maths and Numeracy Week

Maths Week is an excellent opportunity to bring out the budding mathematician in all of our students, and boy, do they get into it. From the first Assembly on Monday, Oct 17, they began sending in maths jokes and riddles, and there was a general buzz of interest around the school as they exercised their brains to solve them. We thank the Maths department for organising such an uplifting week.

Study Skills Workshop

A study skills workshop took place for 3rd, 5th and 6th-year students on Monday, Oct 3. The feedback on the workshop was very positive, and we hope it will help students learn the required skills to succeed academically.

Academic

Assessment and Reporting

In mid-October, you received a report on your child's engagement in studies since the start of the year. On Nov 21, students will sit exams assessing learning in the first 11 weeks. The reports from these exams will be available for parents in mid-December.

Tuesday, Nov 15 - School Closed

Please note that the school is closed on Tuesday, Nov 15, to facilitate Junior Cycle Professional Development for all teachers. Each year the school is allocated two days for teacher professional development. This day is the second of the two days.

6th years see Mac Beth

After spending many months studying Shakespeare's tragic play in the classroom, the 6th students and Ms Maguire-Timmins had the opportunity to go to the Mill productions' version of Macbeth, directed by Geoff O'Keefe in the Mill Theatre, Dundrum, on Saturday, Oct 15. It was beautifully staged and presented by a group of

actors who engaged and brought a thrilling narrative to life that seemed as relevant today as it was to the first audience over 400 years ago. An excellent way to spend a Saturday evening!

Transition Year Update

This year's highlights have included a two-night camping trip to Lough Dan ([link](#)), a Krav Maga and Irish dancing module, a Barista workshop, a Bakesale for charity, work experience, and their weekly subjects. TY's have also been planning future projects, such as a science workshop for the primary school and activities for the 1st years. On Fridays, they have been partaking in outdoor pursuits and culture modules, including the Botanic Gardens, Killiney Hill, Bray Head and Cliff Walk ([link](#)), The Houses of the Oireachtas, the National Gallery and Farmleigh House and Gardens.

Transition Year Old Clothes Drive

Transition Year students are currently running a clothing collection fundraiser. The clothing makes its new journey worldwide, mainly to Eastern Europe and Africa. The TYs will also receive some money for the recycled clothing to fund an outdoor classroom that the TY class are developing.

If you have any renewable items such as clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts, towels, curtains or blankets, please drop them into the school library between Monday, Nov 21 and Thursday, Nov 24.

Transition year Bulb Drive

Transition Years students hope to plant as many pollinator-friendly bulbs and plants as possible this Autumn and Spring. They would appreciate any bulbs or plant donations, which can be left on the teacher's desk in H16 at any time.

Extra-Curricular

It has been a busy month of sport in JSS. Our basketball, soccer, frisbee and athletics teams have all been training hard in preparation for our upcoming games.

Soccer

Junior Girls Soccer competed in our first-ever girl's league Soccer game on Wednesday, Oct 26. Well done to the team on an outstanding performance, winning 6-2. To see some pictures, please click [here](#).

Hockey

The John Scottus girl's Junior hockey team got off to a spectacular start in their first league match against Manor House of Raheny. Excellent teamwork, resilience and spirit lead to a 2-1 victory. Our second league match took us to St Raphaela's in Kilmacud. However, adverse weather conditions led to a cancellation of the game in the interest of safety, and it will be rescheduled after the midterm.

The Junior girl's hockey team had their 3rd game on Tuesday, Oct 25. JSS fought a challenging physical game with skill and vigour, and every team member gave 100%.

Unfortunately, the team lost out narrowly. However, the team learnt many lessons and moved forward to our next league match after mid-term.

Athletics

A new John Scottus Athletics club has been set up this year with the help of one of our new TY students, Georgina Papadimitropoulos. The first competitive competition took place on Tuesday, Sept 27, at the scenic location of Avondale house and gardens. The event was for the 500m relay race, where the students had to race in groups of three and four. Our students came 6th out of 13 schools; This was a great start considering the club had had only one athletics event before the event. Everyone that came participated, and it was a fantastic experience for all. To see some pictures from the event, please click [here](#).

Golf

Golf lessons have started for interested students in the next-door Old Conna golf club. They take at 1.00 pm on Tuesdays. Students sign up for a six-week course getting lessons from the Golf professional on-site in Old Conna. To see some pictures please click [here](#).

Club Fair

Our Club's Fair took place on Thursday, Oct 6. Students signed up for various clubs and extra-curricular activities during the fair. Some of the clubs on offer included choir, drama, debating, soccer, hockey, ultimate frisbee, basketball, Golf, athletics, coding, Irish, JSS newspaper, Global Citizen, games, creative arts, green schools, piano lessons, guitar lessons, instrumental, French, Irish, Maths Circle, Student support, sailing, horse riding, debating, newspaper and the Sir David Attenborough Appreciation Club.

Extension Maths

Mr Brady, Head of our Maths department, is offering students the opportunity to engage in extra Maths, building on the work done in the classroom. If you or your child are interested, please look at the Parallel Universe at parallel.org.uk or contact Mr Brady directly.

Pause Magazine

Many students signed up to become part of the development team of the school newspaper. Students will have different roles, such as preparing articles, editors, designers and illustrators. The plan is to have several editions each year on topics such as climate change, sustainable development goals, young inspirational leaders, book reviews, short stories, human rights issues, philosophy topics, sustainable education, community-oriented business and well-being.

We look forward to the first publication.

Philosophical thought for the day

"Beware the barrenness of a busy life" – Socrates

Summary of Events coming up

Science Week: Begins Nov 14

Parent Teacher Meetings: 2A Tuesday, Nov 8 and 2B Thursday, Nov 8
School Closed for Junior Cycle Teacher Professional Development: Tuesday, Nov 15
Transition Year Information night for 3rd-year parents, Thursday, Dec 1
Exams: Monday, Nov 21 to Wednesday, Nov 23

Yours warmly,

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

Dr Declan Kelly
Principal
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