



# JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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October 27, 2023

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:

How do I know what is right and wrong?

What is the effect of the words I choose?

Why is Maths important?

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 2<sup>nd</sup> year will take place as follows:

2A – Tuesday, Nov 7

2B – Thursday, Nov 9

### ***Road Closure***

Irish Water will carry out road works on Ferndale Road until November 30, and Ferndale Road users will have to take diversions. We will pass on information from Irish Water as we receive it.

### ***Assessment and Reporting***

Starting Monday, Nov 13, students will sit exams assessing learning in the first 11 weeks. The reports from these exams will be available for parents in mid-December.

### ***Junior Cycle Results 2023***

I congratulate our Junior Cycle class of 2023 on their excellent results. These are impressive results, and we commend the tremendous work of our students in the past three years.

### ***Monday, December 5 - School Closed.***

Please note that the school will close on Tuesday, December 5, to facilitate Junior Cycle

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**Principal: Dr. Declan Kelly, B.A.I, M. Eng, Ph.D, Pg.Dip.Ed**

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Professional Development for all teachers. Each year, the school is allocated two days for teacher professional development. The first of the two days will take place on December 5.

## **School Events**

### ***Halloween***

Our 6th-year leadership team organised a Halloween-themed dress-up on Friday, October 27th. They also organised a cinema fundraiser for Focus Ireland and a room decoration competition. Well done to all students involved for showing great initiative and raising the school spirit.

### ***Maths and Numeracy Week***

Maths Week is an excellent opportunity to bring out the budding mathematician in our students. From the first Assembly on Monday, October 16th, 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. To see pictures of the event, please click [here](#).

### ***6th year Geography Field Study***

On Friday, October 6th, our 6th Year Geography class travelled by school bus to Shankill beach. The students were lucky to have such mild weather this time of year. They explored the topic of coastal erosion and learned so much from seeing first-hand the effect of it on Shankill Beach. The students will write a report of their findings and submit it before the Leaving Certificate, which counts as up to 20% towards their LC geography result. To see pictures of the event, please click [here](#).

### ***6th year students see Hamlet***

After spending many months studying Shakespeare's tragic drama in the classroom, the 6th-year students, Mr Duffy and Ms Maguire Timmins, had the opportunity to go to a live performance of Hamlet directed by Katie O'Halloran in the Mill Theatre, Dundrum, on Wednesday, October 11th. An ensemble cast of professional actors brought this truly catastrophic story to life in an insightful retelling which seemed as relevant today as it was to the first audience over 400 years ago. It was a great event and one that was both educational and wonderfully entertaining.

## **Extra-Curricular**

### ***Club Schedule***

To see the current extra-curricular club schedule, please click [here](#).

### ***Inaugural Film Club Show***

The John Scottus Film Club met on Tuesday, 24th October, to watch the animated film "Coroline". Thirty-four students enjoyed the movie, along with snacks and drinks that were provided. The club will meet again during the Christmas season to watch a festive film; all students are welcome.

### ***Music***

Jam sessions are on Thursdays in the music room, and students of all years and instruments are free to make some music. The TY auditions for the musical took place last week, and Ms. Williams and the director, Molly were most impressed with the level of talent, effort, and enthusiasm of the students who took part. It looks like an exciting year of singing and dancing for the TYs!

### ***October Sports Update***

Below is an update on some of the sports events in the past month.

#### **Athletics Cross Country Avondale**

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, our John Scottus Athletics team had their first event of the year. 26 students from 1-3<sup>rd</sup> year travelled to Avondale Park for the 1500m cross country event.

A great effort was made by everyone and all student gave it their all in tough conditions. Oisín Donelon, Conor Wood, Iona Murnane and Daniel Quilty all got placed in their races and secure individual medals. The John Scottus 2<sup>nd</sup> year boys team also won the overall team prize in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year event. Oisín Donelon, Conor Wood, Daniel Quilty and Senan Kelly secured the boys' impressive win.

Conditions were particularly hard with the heavy rain and mud, yet, each JSS athlete showed great resilience to push through and finish. To see some pictures of the event, please click [here](#).

#### ***Soccer***

Our u17 Girls got their season off to a winning start in the first round of the Junior Cup. The JSS girls hosted Rath Dara Community College in what was an enthralling game from the get-go. Rath Dara got off to a brighter start and scored a goal after 10 minutes. Amelia Lynam got the girls back on level terms with a well-placed finish from just inside the box. Katie Ashmore put the girls in front when she finished nicely from a Milly Fisher corner. The final goal of the half again came from a Milly Fisher corner. This time, the ball managed to travel directly in as it squeezed by the goalkeeper at the near post. The JSS girls continued where they left off after the break with two well-placed finishes by Milly Fischer to put the girls 5-1 up. You would have been forgiven for thinking the game was over at this stage, but that proved not to be the case as Rath Dara scored 3 unanswered goals to make it 5-4 with 15 minutes to play. John Scottus were under a lot of pressure and found themselves on the backfoot before Zoe Van Der Bergh raced free from just inside the opposition half and dribbled the ball half the pitch before powering the ball into the corner. A well-taken goal from Brenna Gallagher and a fourth from Milly Fisher, wrapped up the game.

Our u15 boys travelled to Bluebell Community Centre to take on CBS St. James in the first round of the Minor Cup. The JSS boys started the brighter and got in behind the St. James rearguard on several occasions, with Aaron Hroffman going the closest with a shot that hit both posts before somehow coming back into play. The first half continued to be a tight affair. A good save from Yude He was fired back in from the rebound to give the home team the advantage at halftime. The boys pushed for an equaliser in the second half and again came close, but it was St. James who again got the goal. This forced the JSS boys to push forward in the last quarter to look for a goal to get back in the game. The lads applied lots of pressure and created chances but, unfortunately just

couldn't get the goal they needed. A well-taken goal on the counterattack in the final minutes from St. James's really put the game beyond reach. Despite the result, this was a good performance for the JSS lads, and we now have more games and our league to look forward to.

In the torrential rain, our u15 girls opened their season against a very strong Ringsend side. The game began as a tight affair, with both sides struggling to cope with the conditions. However, as the game wore on, the opposition got a foothold in the game, and the JSS girls struggled to ease the pressure and work the ball up the field. The second half proved a similar affair. With conditions worsening, the girls stayed working hard, with Zoe Van Den Bergh going closest to scoring for John Scottus. Despite the tough game against very strong opposition Kayla Flavin, Charlotte Stafford and Keelin Doyle in particular battled hard throughout. A tough opening result for the girls who now have their league to look forward to as the year progresses.

### ***Basketball***

After two very narrow defeats away to Mercy Secondary School in Inchicore and away to Goatstown Educate Together, there was no time for the boys to rest. We were chasing our first win of the group, and on the 3rd of October, we travelled to Sandyford to play Blackrock Educate Together. It was another very competitive game; on this occasion, we had the edge and came out on top 30-23. Well done to Yude and Max, who had some excellent scores, and to all the boys for a good team performance.

On the 12th of October we again travelled to Sandyford to play Firhouse ET and won 39-7. This was a great win, and everyone contributed to what was their best team performance. The highest scorers on the day were Yude and Max, with Corín, Liam and Emre also on the scoresheet. Great passing and assists also from Eoghan and Jake and all-around great defensive work from everyone on the court.

Our last game of the group was due to be played on Monday, 23rd of October, against Wicklow ET, with points awarded to us as Wicklow were unable to play.

All games at group stages have now been played, and with 3 wins and 2 losses, it's a waiting game to see if we qualify for the next stages. Keeping the fingers crossed.

We must thank Yusra, from 5th Year, who travelled to both our games to assist on table duty and is always very supportive and encouraging to all the boys.

### ***Girls hockey***

The girl's minor team had their 2nd league match against Our Lady's Terenure. It was a great team effort, and even though it was a loss, there are huge weekly improvements. Our next game is against New Park Comprehensive after the mid-term break.

The girl's junior team had 2 league matches in the last few weeks. It was a very close score against Donate, and the game this week against Rosemount didn't go our way. The next match is against Sion Hill after mid-term.

### ***Boys hockey***

The boy's hockey training on Wednesdays has been going very well, and we look forward to starting matches after mid-term.

### ***Transition Year Update***

#### ***TY sleep out for Focus Ireland Shine a Light.***

Our TYs slept out in the school on the 6th of October to raise money for Focus Ireland. They were very fortunate to have a mild night! The students set up a dance competition and film outside for evening entertainment. We would like to thank all who donated and the hard work of the TYs. The total raised was €2112.65. To see pictures of the event, please click [here](#).

#### ***Friday Trips***

The Friday trips for October have included a mix of outdoor adventure and culture trips depending on the unpredictable weather that October can bring. The trips included a hike up Scheflin Mountain, which has a 5000-year-old passage tomb at the top, Crone wood and Maulin Mountain loop and, the National Art Gallery and the completion of a just dance competition. To see pictures of the trips, please click [here](#).

#### ***Ireland vs Greece international football match***

Friday the 13th proved to be an unlucky day for the Irish in the international football match against Greece, but still, there was a great atmosphere in the stadium, and it was worth the journey to cheer on our national team. To see pictures of the event, please click [here](#).

#### ***Irish Dancing***

October also saw the start of six lessons in Irish dancing. October also saw the start of six lessons in Irish dancing. We look forward to the students developing their dancing talents over the next two months.

#### ***Cooking Module***

The first of three groups have started their cooking module. Some food has included Pasta, Pizza, spice bags and scones. Mr Bourke has made his way down to the kitchen on occasion to carry out taste tests and can confirm there are some talented chefs in the group.

#### ***Photography module***

The photography module has ended, and students learnt some techniques such as the rule of thirds, leading lines, frame within a frame, portraits, group and macro photos. To see some pictures taken by our students, please click [here](#).

#### ***School of Improv***

On Tuesday, October 24th, the School of Improv came in to deliver a workshop to TYs. In the workshops, students wrote, shot and edited their comedy sketches. The workshop was great fun and built up teamwork, confidence and self-expression in the students. To see some pictures, please click [here](#).

**Philosophical thought for the day**

"You cannot do a kindness too soon, because you never know how soon it will be too late."

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Summary of Events coming up**

Midterm Break: Monday, October 30 to Friday, Nov 3

Stand Up Week: Begins Nov 6

Leaving Certificate Higher Irish Level Theatre Trip: Nov 7

Science Week: Begins Nov 13

Transition Year Information night for 3<sup>rd</sup>-year parents, Tuesday, Nov 7

Parent Teacher Meetings: 2A Tuesday, Nov 7 and 2B Thursday, Nov 9

Exams: Monday, Nov 13 to Wednesday, Nov 15

School Closed for Junior Cycle Teacher Professional Development: Tuesday, Dec 5

Leaving Certificate 6<sup>th</sup> Year Art Trip to Hugh Lane Gallery: Wednesday, Dec 6

Yours warmly,



Dr Declan Kelly

Principal

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