



**Salesian College**  
**General School Letter**  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We thank you for your support and cooperation so far this term and we hope our Junior and Leaving Certificate students feel they have done well in their exams. I thank all parents & guardians for the payment of the mock fees and we look forward to returning excellent results to our students. I ask you to read this newsletter with some important updates for all students.

***Don Bosco Feast Day Celebration Mass & Major Rector Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime***

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February we welcome Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, Rector Major of the Salesians of Don Bosco worldwide. He is visiting Salesian College as part of the celebrations of the centenary year of the Salesians in Ireland. We will celebrate a school mass on Friday 15<sup>th</sup>. As the mock exams are also taking place and the Transition Year students are on work experience, the mass will be celebrated with first and second year students 9.15am-10.15am in the assembly hall. Following this we will invite our senior students, including representatives from our Ceangail and Cinnirí leadership teams to make a presentation to Fr. Angel. This will be a busy day in the school so we will ask 3<sup>rd</sup> years to attend for school for their final mock exam at 11.00am. Students who arrive at normal school time will have supervised study in the gym hall. 6<sup>th</sup> years will also have their final exam at 11.00am. We thank our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years for their excellent approach, study, diligence and attitude during these mock exams.

***Mid-term break –Supervised Study***

We have organised supervised study for our Junior and Leaving Certificate students during the mid-term break Monday-Thursday 9.00-12.00pm, Cost €25. Students are asked to sign up by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> at the latest. This is an excellent opportunity for students to work on the areas, themes and topics they should focus on having just finished the mock exams. Application forms are available in the school from Mr. Kilcline. Saturday study is also running now for all students.

***Extra Language Classes.***

We have organised extra blitz classes for all German and French Junior and Leaving Certificate students during the mid-term break. We strongly urge all language students to avail of these extra classes the school is organising. There is no charge for these classes but students must notify Ms. O' Toole by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> at the latest. A letter will be distributed to all students by the end of the week with the exact details.

***Traffic / Dropping students to school & collecting students***

We remind parents & guardians that for the safety of all students parents are not allowed park on the school premises to drop students off or to collect them. There are over 700 students coming and going from the building, along with cyclists and it is for your sons own safety that we have these measures in place. We have also been asked to remind parents that they should not wait either in the parking area for Celbridge Community School or the Private Business Park at Apple Green. We support local businesses here in the school and we ask all parents and guardians to be considerate of their right to have access for their business premises and parking for their customers. Also we remind parents & guardians to use the turn in area after the bus stop for turning and to avoid U turns in the middle of the main road. There was an accident outside the school this morning and we want to avoid this at all costs. We also remind parents of students with cars that under no circumstances are students allowed park cars or motorbikes on the school premises. We thank you for your cooperation with this.

***Festival of Well-being***

We thank all our students for their participation in the different activities that were organised. We especially thank our Junior Liaison Officer Garda Audrey Sheridan for her presentation to all junior students on the internet & social media & mobile phone use. This was very informative and hopefully the guidance given will be followed by our students to ensure their own personal safety when on-line.

***Child Protection Procedures Review & Inspections***

Salesian College has formally adopted the Department of Education and Skills the 2017 Child Protection Guidelines. A copy of this is available on the school web-site. In accordance with these guidelines the school is reviewing its Child Safe-Guarding Statement, completing a risk assessment in relation to child protection concerns and completing the DES review checklist. This review will be completed in February and the updated policies and statements will be available from the school and will also be available on the school web-site. The Department of Education has also announced that it will begin Child Protection Procedures inspections. During a Child Protection and Safeguarding Inspection inspectors will:

- Engage with learners about their learning in Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) in post-primary schools.
- Administer an on-line parent questionnaire that explores issues relevant to school climate and parents' awareness of the school's child protection procedures, including the school's anti-bullying procedures
- Hold meetings with:
  - Designated Liaison Person (DLP) / Deputy DLP ( Ms. Kearns and Mr.Kerins)
  - Chairperson of Board of management
  - A sample of school personnel
  - The SPHE coordinator
- Review the following documents:
  - Board of management minutes
  - Child safeguarding statement and risk assessment
  - Relevant school plans, monthly progress records (primary) and timetable data (post-primary)
  - Review child protection records, where these have been created

### ***Extra-curricular activities & FAI Schools Leinster Cup Senior Soccer Final!!***

We thank and congratulate all our students involved in extra-curricular activities. We have had great success this year which is a testament to the students' enthusiasm and commitment. I also sincerely thank all the teachers who coach teams after school for their unending time and energy as well. We have been very successful in the athletics Meetings, in basketball, GAA, rugby, senior debating and in soccer. We are all very excited for our Senior Soccer Team as Salesian College has reached the Leinster Finals. This is a massive achievement. The final will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March against Wexford CBS and we wish Mr. Colin Cryan and Mr. David Cryan and all the team the very best of luck.

### ***Mock Interviews***

The recent 6<sup>th</sup> year mock interviews was again another success Salesian College event. This could not have happened without the support and volunteers from you, our parents. Your expertise and experience on the interview panels for our 6<sup>th</sup> years was deeply appreciated. This event was superbly organised by Ms. Harris our Guidance Counsellor, assisted by Mr. David Reilly and Mr. Leonard. Our thanks also to Ms. Harris for assisting students with their CAO forms over the last few weeks.

### ***Parents Association***

I sincerely thank all parents who attend the Parents Association meeting every second Tuesday for their work and support to the school. Over the last few months I have shared with them school policies including TY outings & Activities Protocols, Attendance Strategy and Meeting & Teaching students 1-1 protocols, Work Experience Protocols and PE & Changing Room protocols. They are also central to the review of our Child Protection Procedures this month. I also thank them for their support for our Ceangail & Cinnirí teams, the purchasing of our new outdoor table tennis tables and organising the guest speaker from Pieta House for our AGM. New members are welcome to join at any time, your support will be warmly welcomed.

### ***Transition Year Application process & Ceangail & Cinnirí Interviews***

The Transition Year interviews will take place from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February. All students who have applied have been given the questions to help in their preparations. I also congratulate all the excellent 5<sup>th</sup> years who applied for Ceangail & Cinnirí for 2019-2020. All students are highly commended for the standard of their applications and their interviews. I thank Ms. S Coleman & Ms.L Whitty & Mr.S Gavin for their excellent work on these leadership programmes. Students will be notified after the mid-term break of their result.

### ***Garda Achievement Awards***

Well done to Kevin 5 who won the group award for the National Garda Achievement Awards for their participation and contribution to the Commemoration Garden and preparations for the WW1 ceremony in Term 1 this year. Their work was invaluable and all teachers involved are also praised and thanked for their work, as well as Fr.Tony Mc Evoy and Ronnie Kane, our School Caretaker.

We wish all our students a safe and restful mid-term and look forward to welcoming them back.

Finally we remember in our thoughts and prayers this month and offer our sympathies to the families and friends of:

Mr. Barry Ryan, former student and son of former teacher Mr. Pat Ryan

Cody Courtney Cross, 6<sup>th</sup> year student 2018 &

Mr. Tony Kane, father of Ms. Liz Kane, School Secretary

Ar Dheis Dé go rabh a n-anamacha

Go raibh maith agaibh,

Ms. Brenda Kearns, Principal