



**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I invite all parents and guardians to read this important letter which includes information on recent and upcoming school events.

***German classes.***

I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to some of our students who regrettably have not had full German classes for some time now. It has proven impossible to recruit a teacher. Although this may not be of any consolation but this is a national problem along with sourcing Irish language teachers. I hope however that there is now a solution and I expect all classes to be covered from next week. Every effort will be made to offer students extra tuition and extra classes. I fully accept that this has been a very frustrating time for students and I hope we will be able to make up the work from next week onwards.

***Transition Year 2016-2017 & 5<sup>th</sup> Year Subject options***

We thank all students who applied for the Transition year programme and to all students who completed their subject option forms and returned them on time. Given that the TY programme was oversubscribed we wish to ensure our selection process is completely as comprehensively as possible. Letters of offer will be issued next week.

***School Financial Charge***

As part of a whole-school financial review, it is clear that the school must ask for financial assistance from all parents and guardians in order to ensure the effective running of the school and maintain the environmental, academic, curricular and extra-curricular activities to a very high standard. Previously the school sought a registration fee each year as part of the enrolment check we complete to check the numbers of students returning each year. The school has examined the costs associated with specific student services and for 2016 there will be a full school charge of €125. All parents' guardians are asked to pay this fee in full. All parents will receive a letter in two weeks' time to check enrolment for 2016-2017 along with information about this charge and how it can be paid. The school asks that this charge is paid before the end of this academic year.

***Incoming 1st Years 2016/2017 Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 7pm***

I remind parents and guardians who may have a son enrolled for first year 2016-2017 that there is an information meeting on Wednesday April at 7pm. Students will also complete their CATs on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April.

***Ceangail & Cinnirí***

Well done to our students who organised a fund-raising bag pack in Tesco on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April. We thank all the local community for their support. For a long number of years the Ceangail & Cinnirí teams have made a significant contribution to the well-being, personal and social development of our students. We also thank the students who were part of the teams for 2015-2016. They engaged in a wonderfully positive and influential role with our students during their final year in Salesian College. We wish them well in their preparations for the Leaving Certificate. I thank Ms. Moore, Ms. Cullen and Ms. Dolan who are working with both teams this year. Congratulations to the following students who are members of our Cinnirí & Ceangail team for 2016-2017:

Evin McGovern, Adam Stenson, Dillion Ryan, Ryan Duncanson, James Killian, Eoin O'Dwyer, Sean Leonard, Lee Maycock, Donatas Galickas, Paul Hogan.

***Cinnirí team 2016-2017***

Sport: Dylan Connolly & Liam O Flynn, Social Awareness: Cian Hayden & Lee Franzoni, PR: Kevin Dunne & David McGivern, ICT: Adam Curley & Conor Myler, New Role-Activities: Jordan McElroy & Daniel Boyle

### ***Celebrating Difference Week***

This week all students will participate in Celebrating Difference Week. A series of guest speakers from different cultures and organisations have been organised along with a set of teaching and learning resources for all teachers and students. Events will include presentations on inter-country adoption, Paralympic athletics, and flag naming competition first year resource area, presentations from past-pupils, the world food lunch and ethnic music entertainment in the resource department. We hope all students enjoy these events and participate as much as possible and I thank Ms. Lennon for organising this.

### ***Information Meeting for all Parents & Guardians Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April 7pm – “Be aware, informed and educated about alcohol and substance issues for teenagers”.***

I invite all parents and guardians to attend an important meeting which we have organised in collaboration with Garda Audrey Sheridan, Junior Liaison Officer, Detective Inspector Sergeant Dolan (Leixlip), and Sergeant Swann (Celbridge). At this meeting our presenters will aim to give parents and guardian’s information and advice about the challenges young students face today in relation to alcohol and drugs. I hope all parents are aware that on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April all students were addressed by Garda Sheridan. This presentation was part of our SPHE and Pastoral Care Programme. Students were advised on the role of the Gardaí in upholding the law of the land and the school code of behaviour in relation to alcohol, smoking and illegal substances. We are extremely supportive of this initiative and I believe Garda Sheridan will give a very practical and useful presentation which will inform you as parents on how best to advise our students on making the right decisions during their teenage years and beyond.

### ***Practical Exams***

All parents and guardians are advised to make note of these important dates for Junior and Leaving Certificate practical exams.

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>ROOM</b>
<b>Wed 4<sup>th</sup> May ‘16</b>	<b>LC Construction</b>	9.30-13.30	Construction Rm
<b>Wed 4<sup>th</sup> May ‘16</b>	<b>LC Engineering</b>	10.00-13.00 & 14.00- 17.00	MWK2
<b>Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> May ‘16</b>	<b>LC Engineering</b>	10.00-13.00 & 14.00- 17.00	MWK2
<b>Fri. 6<sup>th</sup> May ‘16</b>	<b>JC Metal Work</b>	9.30-12.30 & 13.30- 16.30	MWK2
<b>Mon. 9<sup>th</sup> May ‘16</b>	<b>JC Metal Work</b>	9.30-12.30 & 13.30- 16.30	MWK2
<b>Wed. 11<sup>th</sup> May ‘16</b>	<b>LC Art Craftwork/Design</b>	9.30 – 12.00 & 14.00 – 16.30	Art Room
<b>Thurs. 12<sup>th</sup> May ‘16</b>	<b>LC Art Imaginative Comp.</b>	9.30-12.00	Art Room
<b>Thurs. 12<sup>th</sup> May ‘16</b>	<b>LC Art Life Sketching</b>	14.00 -15.00	Art Room
<b>Fri. 13<sup>th</sup> May ‘16</b>	<b>JC Art, Craft, Design</b>	9.30-12.30	Art Room

### ***1<sup>st</sup> Year Trip to Lilliput Adventure Centre, Mullingar & 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Trip to “Activity Nation”, Newgrange, Meath, & Ski trip Easter 2016***

I thank Mr. O’Connor, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Year head and Mr. Leonard 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Year head and the tutors who have organised two separate outings for our Junior Students this term. Students will enjoy a wide range of activities including archery, paintballing, team building exercises to name but a few. These tours are being organised as an acknowledgement to our students for their positive attitude and cooperation during the year. We thank all parents and guardians for paying for these tours and we hope the students have a great experience. I also thank Mr. Kerins, Mr. Maguire, Mr. Lane, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Kelly who accompanied TY & 5<sup>th</sup> year students to Italy this Easter on a ski tour. I compliment the students on their wonderful and exceptional behaviour and participation. The teachers could not have praised them more.

### ***ICT- Information and Communication Technology***

We have made a considerable investment over the last number of years in upgrading our ICT network in the school. This includes our VS Ware system which allows for a digital recording of all student information, student marks, and attendance. We are able to review this information, assess and follow a student's progress better than ever before. We also have an improved log-in system for our students to access school computers for research, subject projects, the ECDL programme and Career investigation to name but a few. All students have also been issued with their own school email addresses. This has proven to be very beneficial and useful to teachers and student alike. I would like to advise all students and parents that a student's email should only be used for school business and should not be interfered with, or used in any way which could be deemed to be inappropriate or a breach of our school code of behaviour. The school also retains all access rights to school email accounts and can check student's correspondence at any time should we have any concerns. Given that students these days are very ICT savvy and use ICT on a daily basis, any social correspondence they have on the internet should be done with their own personal accounts. I ask all parents and guardians to discuss this with their sons. It is also good advice to monitor your son's internet use and ensure that they are using the internet in a safe and supervised manner.

### ***Amendment to the school code of behaviour – Mobile Phones & electronic devices***

As a school we are dealing with more and more issues to do with mobile phones and we must all have the same understanding of the rules. As there is very little difference now between an IPOD or similar musical device and an iPhone / smart phone, both can record, film, be used for internet access and so on, students will not be allowed to use these either on the school premises. This amendment to the school code of behaviour has been discussed with students, the Parents Association and the Board of Management. I ask all parents and guardians to go through this amendment and discuss with your son.

- Students are no longer allowed to listen to music on their personal electronic device in class, between classes, at lunchtime or whilst on the school premises.
- Students are not allowed use their phones from 8.30am until 5.45pm.
- Students must be off the school premises when using a mobile device.
- Should a student be found recording anything in class, whether it is a teacher or another set of students, it is completely unacceptable and a more serious sanction of up to three days may be considered.
- The following can constitute use of a mobile phone on the school premises: accessing the phone in any way for information, checking the time, calendar, text messages, taking photographs, making a recording, using any apps or other mobile phone functions.
- The use of mobile phones and other devices has caused significant disruption, and stress, to students and teachers therefore we must implement these amendments.
- If a student is found using a mobile phone/ device on the school premises they will be asked to turn it off, put it in an envelope and the student's name and class will be written on it and the relevant report will be prepared. The phone may be given to the Principal / Deputy Principal or Year head who is available.
- Phones / Mobile devices are not kept overnight, they are always returned at the end of the day. Students will be asked to discuss the incident with their parents before they are contacted by the school to decide on the sanction of either a €45 fine or 1 day suspension.

We thank you for your support in the implementation of this amendment.

### ***Junior and Leaving Certificate students***

We remind parents that full attendance at school for all classes is expected. We will not accept 6<sup>th</sup> year students attending on an "ad-hoc" basis, i.e. coming in for a double class of one of their optional subjects and then leaving school with a note to avoid attending subjects such as PE and RE or a subject which they may deem not important for their studies. We will not accept this approach from students or indeed from parents even if students present a note giving them permission to leave for "an appointment". It is crucial that students have full attendance for the rest of the term. All teachers will be working as best they can to ensure the students are as prepared as possible. We ask for your cooperation with this. We also encourage all our students to ensure they are studying in a regular and productive manner and that they follow their teacher's advice as to how best ensure excellent results.

### ***SCAM –Salesian College Annual Magazine***

We look forward to an excellent school magazine this year. Mr. Lane and Mr. Kilcline are busy gathering articles and editing this publication. Details of how you can purchase this excellent publication will be issued shortly.

### ***Facebook page***

Our Facebook page is updated regularly throughout the school week and we celebrate all the different curricular and extracurricular activities taking place each week. Facebook Page: Salesian College Celbridge

### ***Jackets and student belongings.***

We remind students that it is their responsibility to ensure they bring home all their belongings, jackets, coats, bags, kit bags and so on every day. Each Friday we collect articles from around the school which students have not brought home with them. After two weeks these unclaimed articles will be donated to charity.

### ***Sports Day & Annual Parents Association BBQ***

Our Annual Sports Day will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May. This is a whole-school event and all students are expected to attend school as normal. I ask parents and guardians not to write notes to the school excusing your son from this event. By having a whole-school Sports Day it is our aim to promote fitness and participation in sporting and team events. This is extremely important to us as we endeavour to support and develop not only the academic progress and education of students but we also aim to ensure our students are given every opportunity to excel physically and in the sporting field. This event is also supported by our excellent Parents Association who organise each year a BBQ for our students. I thank all the members of the parents association for their work on this and every year we welcome and encourage parents to get involved and volunteer their time to help out at this event.

### ***House Exams***

Our end of year house exams will commence on the last week of term beginning 30<sup>th</sup> May. It's very important that all students devise a study plan and get revising to finish out the year as best they can. Getting good academic results don't happen without putting in the required work. We hope all our students will work hard and that they will be happy with their end of year reports.

### ***Upcoming events***

- 9.35am start for students Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April
- Business Studies Teachers Association National Business Quiz 20<sup>th</sup> April
- 9.35am start for students Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year trip to Lilliput Adventure Centre, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Years Teenline Presentation 10<sup>th</sup> May
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year trip to Activity Nation Centre, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May
- DATs 5<sup>th</sup> year students 4<sup>th</sup> May
- Annual Golf Outing
- Musical Auditions
- Subject Awards
- Sports Day & Parents Association BBQ! 17<sup>th</sup> May
- TY Assessment , TY Swim a Mile , TY Gaisce Hike
- 6<sup>th</sup> Year Graduation 26<sup>th</sup> May

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Ms. Brenda Kearns, Príomhoide