



General School Letter 23rd October 2020

A Thuiste, a chara,

We have reached our mid-term break.

On behalf of all the teachers, special needs assistants, administrative and caretaking staff members of our Salesian Community, and our Board of Management, I would like to thank you.

Thank you for sending your son in every day with his masks and hand sanitizer.
Thank you for keeping your son out of school when he was not feeling well.

Thank you for ensuring your son was ready for school with his lunchbox, equipment, and school bag and if items were forgotten, thank you for not calling up to the school.

I want to thank our students for their excellent cooperation, manners, and behaviour.

We acknowledge that their return to school in August and their daily lives in school since then has been so restricted and changed beyond their normal experience and their cooperation and good spirits is commendable, so we thank them sincerely.

Contingency Planning

If further restrictions are announced, and schools are closed we will continue working on-line with all our students.

All teachers and classes have been advised how to log on to the school MS Teams account and access work, attend classes, and send homework and complete assignments on-line.

We will ask students to follow their timetables as normal.

I advise parents and students that some teachers due to their own child-minding responsibilities may not be able to live stream classes, but classes may be recorded in advance or work assigned for the scheduled time on their timetable.

We will take a roll call and follow up on absences.

Questions or queries out of hours will not be responded to by staff.

We hope the school remains open, but I believe it is prudent to be ready for all possibilities.

Work for Absent Students

We are aware of work missed by students when they are asked to remain at home due to Covid-19 and we thank parents for contacting the school to request work.

It is not possible for all teachers to put up all their work done in every class and all the homework assigned on to MS Teams & One Note.

So, please ask your son to contact another student in his class to put the work on-line for him so that he will be able to access it.

40th Anniversary – Road Race Memories

Normally at this time of year we are congratulating all the students and teachers who have taken part in our Annual Road Race. We hope it can be rescheduled to Spring next year and invite special guests to participate in this special anniversary 40th race. We are also planning a celebratory dinner dance for 26th March – all going well of course!

To mark the occasion anyway our 40th Anniversary team have prepared a special set of 40th Anniversary Road Race videos.

We sincerely thank all past pupils, parents, staff members, and former winners of the Road Race for sending in their video clips with their memories of Salesian College and the Road Race.

We are editing all these clips to have them ready to launch on our school Facebook Page and Website this weekend. If your son would like to be included and is happy to share his memories, please send the short video to 40years@Salesianscelbridge.com.

New Board of Management

The New board of Management will take on their new role from October 15th. I wish them all well and thank them in advance for their hard work.

Parent's members:

Ms. Terri Knightly
Mr. John Lynam

Teacher members:

Mr. Eoin O'Sullivan
Ms. Emer Cullen

Trustee members:

Fr. Patrick Hennessy
Fr. PJ Nyland
Mr. Joe O'Connor
Chairperson
Dr. Kevin Byrne

1st Year Vaccinations - Monday 16th November NUIM

Every year we assist the HSE with the different public health vaccination programmes. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we are unable to organise this in the school building. The HSE has asked us to notify all 1st year students and parents that the vaccinations for first year students will take place in Maynooth University on Monday 16th November 2020. This will be an all-day session. Parents/Guardians are asked to bring their student to Maynooth University on this date. The HSE will be in contact with the parents/guardians directly with details on appointment times and information about the injection. This day coincides with a scheduled JCT in-service day for all staff and the school will be closed.

Books Timetable

I thank the Form Teachers for putting together book and copies timetables for Junior Cycle students. We hope this will alleviate the issue around the weight of books for junior students in particular.

Chaplaincy News

This year the Chaplaincy team has been engaged with the school in different ways, especially welcoming the students into the school every morning, and finding ways to be present and share in their life at school, such as during break and lunch times with indoor games, and sports after school hours. Our chaplaincy team now share a weekly 'thought of the week' on all school media. We hope these messages help keeping the spirits up and give students and staff time out from the burdens of current Covid-19 restrictions. We thank our Chaplaincy team for being a positive presence amongst our students. If you would like to contact our school Chaplain, Fr. Jesmond, please send him an email Japap@Salesianscelbridge.com

Extra-Curricular News –Message from our Ceangail & Cinnirí Teams

Salesian College Celbridge offers a wide range of amazing activities for 1st years to participate in. These inclusive events take place both during school time and after school. During lunch time first years are invited to take part in Soccer and Basketball tournaments. Our Cinnirí students are also running Film and Book Clubs during lunch break. There are other exciting sporting events also happening with Badminton and Table Tennis clubs practicing after school. As well as excellent afterschool Coding Classes and Debating Teams to join that will aid students learning and cooperative skills. In summary Salesian College uses their incredible, up to date facilities often with an entertaining and beneficial team or club for all students to join.

Guidance Department

All Sixth Years will be attending the Virtual Higher Options on November 4th from 1 to 6pm and will leave school early at 12pm to facilitate this. We expect all our students to attend what is always a very helpful event. All details, including how to purchase tickets is on the main school website and in the Guidance and Counselling tab also on the school website.

All First-Year students attended a Study and Wellbeing workshop with one of our guidance counsellors Ms Harris. We would ask that parents/ guardians access a copy of the presentation by clicking onto the Guidance and Counselling tab on the school website. The presentation is located in the document section. All First-Year students should now have a study and homework planner which also includes their time for self-care and wellbeing.

Leaving Certificate 2020 - Calculated Grades

We congratulate all our students who received upgraded leaving Certificate results. We hope they have been granted their preferred course. We are in the process of contacting our class of 2020 to see where they have moved onto. If you have a son in this group, please let us know how and where they are by responding to the number in the text message sent out. Our sincere congratulations to them all on all their successes after such a challenging year.

Parent Teacher Meetings

As previously advised, we will not hold Parent Teacher meetings during the Covid-19 restrictions. We believe that it is important that all parents are given an update on their son's progress so far this year. We will prepare a Parent Teacher report on our VS Ware system for your sons and the following areas will be covered:

- Lesson participation and academic progress
- Homework
- Behaviour
- Punctuality and Attendance

You will be advised of when this report will be available. We are starting with 3rd and 6th years as these were the year groups scheduled for Parent Teacher Meetings.

Parents Checking VS Ware

Last month we gave all parents access to their son's VS Ware Account in order to check the behaviour section on a regular basis. We have found this to be really useful and it gives you, our parents, an opportunity on a daily basis to check your son's record. We will in the next term ask parents to sign a note in the journal to confirm that you are checking this.

House Exams November

At the time of writing we are preparing for the house exams which will start the end of November. We will change some aspects of the operation of the exams to comply with the Covid-19 recommendations. The exam timetables will be posted on the school website when confirmed.

Cycling to and from school & Bike Enclosure

We have had several calls to the school about students cycling to and from the school not adhering to the rules of the road and not respecting other members of the public. We aim to instil a sense of good and honest citizens amongst our students and it is disappointing that some students are not representing themselves or the school in a positive light in this way. We ask all parents and guardians to discuss with your son the importance of safe and positive behaviour as they come to and from school.

We have noticed over the last few weeks that students are not putting their bikes in to the locked bike enclosure. There are very good reasons why we installed this enclosure. It would appear that rather than wait in a socially distanced manner at the end of the school day to collect their bikes students are locking them to old railings at the front of the school for a quicker exit. I advise all students that we will not carry out any investigation on a stolen bike unless it has been placed into the bike enclosure. We have not had any

incidents of theft since this was installed. Bikes are expensive and in short supply and we do not want to attract theft to the school again. Please discuss this with your son if he cycles to and from school. Thank you.

Stay Safe and follow the Covid-19 Restrictions and Guidelines

We have been very lucky in the school with only a handful of confirmed cases to the school. All cases notified to the school have been community-based transmissions. We will organise extra cleaning of the school over the mid-term break. We ask all our students to adhere to the government level 5 protocols for everyone's sake, especially your own families to stay safe. We want the school to re-open after the break and we look forward to welcoming them back all healthy and well and Covid-19 free. Stay safe.

Is mise, le meas,

Ms. B. Kearns,
Príomhoide.