



**Salesian College**  
**General School Letter - Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018**

A Thuiste, a chara,

We wish all our students a Happy New Year and we hope that they will continue to work to the very best of their abilities. I ask you to read this letter carefully as there is important information about school systems and news for your attention.

***New School Rules – Punctuality & Attendance***

We would like to advise all students and parents to changes in our rules and systems with regard to punctuality to the school and in school. Our concerns have escalated recently as a result of the decline of the adherence to our expected standards of cooperation in relation to being on time for school. Whilst we accept that there will always be issues, traffic, weather and unforeseen events that result in students arriving late to school occasionally, we are increasingly concerned about the poor attitude and approach from a very small cohort of students who are taking up too much of our valuable time in processing and organising sanctions such as afterschool detentions and Saturday detentions. At our assemblies this week we have advised all students of these changes and we ask you, our parents for your full cooperation with this new system. Being on time is not only important for school but it is a life skill for our students that we have to foster and encourage. Therefore we advise all parents of the following new rules:

- *Late more than once in week = Afterschool Detention*
- *Late three times = Saturday Detention*
- *Late after a student has completed these sanctions = Letter home to parents and student is not to return to school without the parents attending for a meeting in the school.*

We believe that for 99% of our students these new rules will not give them any cause for concern. This new system is targeted specifically at students who are repeatedly arriving late to school at 8.55, 9.00, 9.05 etc. etc. without any explanatory note or indication of improvement. The Code of Behaviour has been amended to include this new system. We strongly advise any student who has had challenges in the past regarding punctuality to reflect on these new rules and to make the required changes to be on time to school each day. We look forward to an improvement and your full support for this new initiative.

***5<sup>th</sup> & TY Information Meetings***

We thank all parents and guardians who attended our Information Meetings. As a school it is our aim to ensure you are as fully informed as possible of all the available programmes, systems and expectations we have in the school.

***JCT Cluster Day – School Closure Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January***

I remind all students that the school will be closed on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is to facilitate Department of Education In-service. All the local post-primary schools will also be closed.

We ask all our students, especially our Junior and Leaving Certificate classes to use this day as a full day of study and preparation for their mock exams.

***Aware presentations & Random Act of Kindness day & Don Bosco Mass***

We will celebrate our Annual Don Bosco Mass on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January. We are very proud of our Salesian ethos and approach to engaging with students in a positive and preventive manner. We would like to invite any parent who would like to join us in this celebration. The mass will begin at 11.30am. Once the mass is over, in recognition of our Feast day the students will finish at 12.40pm. We will also celebrate our Random Act of Kindness Day on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>. We will encourage students to engage in a very deliberate and focused manner on an act of kindness throughout the day. So we look forward to hearing very positive responses and reports from parents about the extra help your sons give you on this day! I thank Mr. Bracken who has also organised a “Beat the Blues” presentation from AWARE for our senior students which will take place on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

***Music and extra-curricular activities & Sólás Room***

We thank Ms. Tully who is now organising a Music club and Choral group in the school and Ms. Lennon who has started a Ukulele group. We encourage our musically talented and eager students to get involved. We thank Fr. Arek, Salesian Chaplain and Br. Vinh and Br. Paul for organising lunchtime activities for students in the Sólás room.

***Mock fees & Mock Exams***

We ask all 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students to ensure they pay in time for their mock exams. Junior Certificate = €100, Leaving Certificate = €100. We ask all parents and guardians to advise all students to prepare well for their mock exams. We have found over the years that these exams prove to be very useful and informative and help focus the students on their work. We ask all students to use their time wisely and effectively over the next few weeks and to study as best they can.

***TY Fees***

I remind parents that the next instalment of the TY fee is due. I also remind parents that students who do not have their TY fees paid, but who are booked to go on the school skiing trip, that the TY fee must be paid in advance. Students who do not have this paid will not be allowed go on the ski trip.

### ***Bike racks***

We hope shortly to have a new bike rack enclosure for our students who cycle to school. We would like to thank Kildare County Council for their support in this project and Counsellor Frank O'Rourke for his support and advice as well. We would like to give advance notice that there will be very strict rules in relation to the use of this enclosure.

- The bike rack area will be locked and closed at 8.45am each morning.
- It will only be opened again at the end of the school day, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 4pm, Wednesday 3.20pm, Friday 2pm.
- It will not be opened under any circumstances during the school day – this would prove to be a logistical nightmare.
- Students who arrive late to school or who need their bikes for a notified appointment and need to leave during the school day will leave their bikes at a designated set of racks outside this enclosure.
- Students who may need to leave the school during the day will have to wait until they return to school to retrieve their bikes.

We understand that this may be challenging for certain students, however we believe this new system will prove to be a good deterrent to the problem of bikes being stolen we have had to deal with over the last few years.

### ***Project reports / write ups / deadlines***

We remind parents and guardians that certain subjects must have projects and assessment write-ups finished during this term. Teachers have organised extra classes and are giving very generously of their time. Please ensure you are aware of the project work your son has to complete in school in advance of his Junior and Leaving Certificate exams in June.

### ***Conversation classes for French & German***

We have given our senior classes a letter about free conversation classes for German and French we have organised after school to help encourage a more informal and communicative approach to improving their language skills. We look forward to a positive response from students

### ***Mock Interviews***

We sincerely thank in advance all the parents and guardians who have very kindly volunteered their time and professional expertise for our 6<sup>th</sup> Year mock interviews which take place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018. This is one of our highlights of the year and we appreciate the contribution and time from our Parents Association and all who will help out on the night. We wish Ms. Harris, her support team and all the students taking part every success.

### ***Ceangail & Cinnirí 2018-2019***

We wish Ms. Coleman and Ms. Keenan the very best for their new roles as Coordinators of the Ceangail & Cinnirí Leadership programmes. A presentation was made to all 5<sup>th</sup> years this week advising them of these roles and the application process. We have many gifted and talented 5<sup>th</sup> years who could make a very valuable and worthwhile contribution to these programmes. It is also a great opportunity for students to develop their own personal and leadership skills and qualities. We look forward to an excellent response from our present 5<sup>th</sup> years

### ***Business Week***

January 8th to January 12th marked business week 2018 in Salesian college. Our students participated in many activities from our annual 5th year "Biz quiz" to the "Bond Trader Challenge" in the senior school, while our junior classes invited guest speakers such as local entrepreneurs and trade union representatives to their classrooms. Our students gained lots of hands on and practical advice around business start-up and the importance of goal setting. Many thanks to our local entrepreneurs and businesses for contributing to our annual business week.

### ***Extra-Curricular News***

We congratulate the senior Gaelic football team who have qualified for a Dublin schools semi-final by virtue of their win on Thursday last over Clonkeen College. We also commend the excellent performances by all students in the DCU invitational cross country and in particular the junior team who won the junior event and all of the first year boys who were representing the school for the first time. We are looking forward to the start of the competitive season with the West Leinster competition this coming Thursday. We thank also the Senior Rugby Team for their excellent progress in the Vinnie Murphy Cup. Unfortunately the team were not successful against Monkstown CBC last week in Donnybrook Stadium, however we are very proud of the support our own students gave the team and their excellent behaviour. They were a credit to the school. Our thanks to Mr. O'Sullivan and his coaching team. Our soccer teams are also doing well. Our Under 17 team are through to the Leinster senior Cup Semi Final after an impressive 2-0 victory against a strong Ashbourne side. Two second half goals settled the tie in extremely difficult weather conditions. Jake Greene opened the scoring after rounding the keeper from an excellent James McMahan Carr through ball. Niall O'Regan scored the schools second goal three minutes from full time when he calmly placed the ball past the onrushing keeper. Well done to all involved. Well done also to our first year soccer team who advanced to the last 16 of the Cup after a hard fought win over Moyle Park. Two excellent strikes from Killian Browne and a late winner from Dawid Wos earned the team a 3-2 win. I thank all teachers for the commitment and time with all our school teams.

***Le buíochas mór, Ms. Kearns, Principal***

