



Colaiste Lorcáin

Principal: Mr. Eric Gaughran
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Diseart Diarmada
Castledermot
Co. Chill Dara
Co. Kildare

Dear Parent / Guardian,

7th January 2019

We are writing to keep you informed of some of the most recent developments / issues in the school.

New Year / New Start:

It is always useful to remind students of their responsibilities at the start of a new term. Some of the issues we would like to see students address meaningfully are as follows:

- Be on time for school and every class;
- Be prepared for class;
- Concentrate and participate in class;
- Always follow teachers' advice and instructions;
- Complete class work and homework fully;
- Wear the correct school uniform.
- Work with the school to ensure that the rules are kept and respected and
- Always behave with respect and consideration for others.

The eight points above are clear and simple guidelines for success in school.

Christmas Reports:

If your child is in 1st, 2nd or 5th Year, your son / daughter will be given his / her report to bring home in the next ten days. We hope it provides evidence of real progress and commitment to learning.

Supervised Study:

The school provides *Supervised Study* for students four days a week – Monday to Thursday inclusive. Students who wish to participate should speak with their Year Head. Supervised Study starts at 4.15 p.m. and continues until 6.15 p.m. Application forms are available from the school office. They can be downloaded from the school website, also.

This is probably a very good time for students, especially 3rd and 6th Years, to join and begin meaningful preparation for June's state exams.

School Closures:

As indicated previously, due to teacher inservice organised by the J.C.T. / D.E.S., there will be no school for students on Tuesday, January 29th and Tuesday, February 5th next.

Board of Management Annual Report 2017-2018:

The Board of Management recently published its Annual Report 2017-2018 on the operation of the school. It is available to download on the school website and on request from the Principal.

Enrolment of Incoming 1st Years for September 2019:

We are pleased to inform you that over 60 students will be joining us in 1st Year for September 2019. They will be notified of their optional subjects in the coming weeks – 97% will get the choices they asked for. They will sit aptitude tests on Saturday, March 2nd.

For those parents / guardians who wish to apply still, application forms for enrolment (and further information) are available from the school office and they can be downloaded from the school website.

We look forward to educating the students over the next five or six years.

Recording Homework:

Year Heads (as well as subject teachers) consistently encourage students of all ages to record their homework (both written and unwritten) into their school journal. It would be useful for parents / guardians to monitor these journals and the work given by teachers to ensure that it is done thoroughly. Good schoolwork followed by good homework will enhance the prospects of exam success for all.

Parents' Council 2018 – 2019:

Membership of the Parents' Council is open to all parents / guardians who wish to participate. *The next scheduled meeting of the Parents' Council is at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 24th.*

New School Tracksuit Bottoms – September 2019:

The Parents' Council has recently approved the wearing of a new tracksuit bottom by all students with effect from September 2019. The required tracksuit bottoms are stylish and have the school crest on the left thigh. All

students from 1st – 6th Year will be expected to purchase and wear the tracksuit bottoms on the day they have P.E. and as directed by Year Heads and school management.

Mobile Phones Policy:

The Student Voice Forum recently conducted research and drew up a Mobile Phones Policy, which has since been approved by the Board of Management. A copy of the policy is attached to this Newsletter for your information.

Monitoring Student Journals:

Occasionally, teachers write notes / comments for the attention of parents / guardians in the student's journals. We would, again, like to ask parents / guardians to monitor these journals on a weekly basis.

Student Achievements:

We would like to warmly congratulate

- the Senior Boys' Soccer team which has reached the regional final, due to take place in the coming weeks. Well done to Mr. Hutton (Manager) and all the players;
- the Senior Boys' Basketball team which won the Midlands League in early December and
- the Junior Boys' Basketball team which came runners-up in the Midlands League in early December. Well done to their coaches Ms. Doyle, Jim Connolly and all the players.

Both basketball teams now go forward to All Ireland playoffs, which we are hosting here on Sunday, January 13th (Junior) and Sunday, January 20th (Senior). We wish both teams every success and invite you to come and support them.

Emmanuel Concert:

The annual Emmanuel Concert will place in the Helix Theatre, Dublin in February. Our school has a notable history of involvement in this concert organised by the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin where students display their considerable musical talents. Led by Ms. Dempsey, four of our students – Kayla Kissane (4th Year), Orla James and Caitlin O'Neill (5th Year) and Jordan O'Neill (6th Year) – have been chosen to participate. We congratulate them and wish them every success in their performances.

Mock Exams:

3rd and 6th Year students will sit Mock Exams before the February mid-term break. Copies of the Mock Exams timetable are available on the school website – www.colaistelorcain.com. Outstanding fees (€65 for 3rd Years and €130 for 6th Years) should be paid to the school office as soon as possible. It is important that students revise well for these exams and do their very best to show how much they have learned and how well they are progressing in their various subjects.

Young Scientists' Exhibition:

One of our 1st Year students (Cassie Cullen) has qualified for this prestigious competition, to be held in the R.D.S. later this week. Cassie is assisted by two other students – Ellen Cleaver and Mary Lawlor. Well done to the girls and their teacher, Ms. Searing. All of our 1st Year and 4th Year students will be attending the event on Thursday, January 10th.

Sports:

The school continues to be involved in sports matches with other schools and a range of sporting activities during the school day, such as gaelic football, soccer, rugby, basketball and swimming. Well done to all the students who participate in school sports and activities and many thanks to school staff who volunteer their time freely and enthusiastically for our students. Please keep an eye on our website, our Facebook page and our twitter account @CLorcain for regular updates.

School Website:

Please be aware that news items and tweets are regularly posted on the school website (www.colaistelorcain.com). The website is a valuable source of information about the school. Increasingly, forms and documents are being placed on the website for download and to keep the school community informed.

Student Absences / Lateness:

Students should attend school regularly and be on time for school. School begins with the roll call at 8:55 a.m. each day.

Every student who is late must provide a written explanation from his / her parents / guardians on arrival at the school. This written explanation must be presented on arrival to the Year Head to whom each latecomer must report before attending class.

Students may not leave the school without permission or absent themselves from any school activity during school hours. Students who have reason to leave must present a note to that effect to their Year Head and to the school office at the time of their departure.

Students who expect to be absent on a given day must present a note explaining that absence to their Year Head in advance.

Unexpectedly absent students must bring a written explanation from their parents / guardians on their return to school. This note must be presented to the Year Head the following day.

Student Family Details:

Please notify the school office if there are any changes in personal details i.e. home address / contact numbers for parents / guardians. We need to be able to contact you without delay if your child is sick at school / injured playing sports.

Student Internet Safety:

Occasionally, school staff may review students' use of technology in the interests of promoting safe Internet practices and to prevent online misbehaviour. We would like to ask parents / guardians to monitor student use of online technology both in school and at home.

Calendar 2019 – 2020:

Please note that students will arrive as follows: 1st Years on Thursday, August 22nd from 9.00 – 11.00 for a meeting with the Principal and Deputy Principal. Their first official school day is Monday, August 26th from 8.55 – 3.55. All Junior Cycle Years are expected to attend school on Monday, August 26th from 8.55 – 3.55. All Year Groups (1st – 6th Year) are expected to attend school on Tuesday, August 27th from 8.55 – 3.55.

Contacting the School Office:

The principal role of the office staff within the school is their involvement with the day to day running of the school. Given the number of students and teachers in our school, it is inevitable that this role spills over into other areas to include providing a link between the students and teachers and parents / guardians. We would appreciate it if you would ensure that all contact with the school office is for genuine and important reasons. *Given that we are a very busy school, it may be helpful to email the school (info@colaistelorcain.com)*

Upcoming Events January - April 2019:

Tuesday 15th January:	<i>4.15 p.m. – 6.45 p.m. 5th Year Parent Teacher Meeting</i>
Tuesday 29th January:	<i>No School</i>
Monday February 4th:	<i>4.15 p.m. – 6.45 p.m. 2nd Year Parent Teacher Meeting</i>
Tuesday 5th January:	<i>No School</i>
Friday Jan. 1st - Friday Feb. 15th:	<i>Mock Exams (3rd and 6th Years)</i>
Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February:	<i>Mid – term Break</i>
Monday 25th February:	Information Evening re: Transition Year Enrolment (Sept. 2019) 7.00 – 8.30 p.m.
Tuesday 26th February:	Information Evening re: 5th Year Enrolment (Sept. 2019) 7.00 – 8.30 p.m.
Wednesday 27th February:	<i>4.15 p.m. – 6.45 p.m. Transition Year Parent Teacher Meeting</i>
Saturday March 2nd:	<i>Aptitude Testing for Incoming 1st Years (Sept. 2019) 9.00 a.m. – 1.15 p.m.</i>
Monday March 18th:	No School / National Holiday
Monday April 15th – Friday April 26th:	<i>Easter Holidays</i>

We look forward to your continued co-operation and support for the school and our staff for the rest of the school year.

Yours sincerely,

E. Gaughran,
Principal and Secretary, Board of Management.

A. Wafer,
Deputy Principal.