



# Colaiste Lorcain

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Diseart Diarmada  
Castledermot  
Co. Chill Dara  
Co. Kildare

5<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Parent / Guardian,

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

## **Enrolment of Incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Years for September 2019**

Last month, Ms. Wafer visited 6<sup>th</sup> class students to inform them about the subjects and facilities on offer in this school. They were given information on specific subjects and an invitation to attend, with their parents / guardians, the ***Incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Years' Parents' Open Evening and Presentation on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October last.*** A large number of prospective students and their families attended and looked at the facilities on offer, as well as speaking to the Principal and teachers present.

Application forms for enrolment (and further information) are available from the school office and they can be downloaded from the school website. ***The deadline for submitting applications was Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Late applications will be accepted.***

We enjoyed meeting the 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils and their parents / guardians and we look forward to educating the students over the next five or six years.

**Enrolment offers to all who applied were posted out last Thursday.**

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Year November Exams:**

3<sup>rd</sup> students are sitting November Exams this week. Copies of the exam timetable are available on the school website – [www.colaistelorcain.com](http://www.colaistelorcain.com). Their Year Head has already given students a hard copy of the timetable. The exams are based on revision of exam material from 2<sup>nd</sup> Year given to students before the midterm break. 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.

**6<sup>th</sup> Year Information Evening and Parent – Teacher Meeting:**

***On Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> November, the 6<sup>th</sup> Year Information Evening for students and parents / guardians will take place.*** Led by Mr. Hutton (Guidance Counsellor), this meeting will focus on life after the Leaving Cert. – further studies and college, apprenticeships, the world of work, etc.

***On Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November, the 6<sup>th</sup> Year Parent Teacher Meeting will take place.*** We hope that it will be very well attended. 6<sup>th</sup> Year students may attend with parents / guardians if they wish to do so. The students should set realistic short term and long-term targets in relation to academic work and examination grades. The meeting will run from 4.15 – 6.45 p.m.

**Student Achievements:**

Away from school life, a number of our students have had great success. We would like to warmly congratulate

- Basketball – Ewan Kenny (2<sup>nd</sup> Year), who represents the school on the Midlands' League Representative Team;
- Robyn Butler (2<sup>nd</sup> Year), who competed in MMA – Sword Fighting and Continuous Fighting – in Manchester during the Halloween Break;
- Gymnastics – Abbie Mc Dermott (3<sup>rd</sup> Year), who competes successfully in gymnastics;
- Swimming – Nikita Bondarevs (3<sup>rd</sup> Year), who represented the school in regional and Leinster competitions in the last few weeks and
- Karate – Annelie Burke (4<sup>th</sup> Year) and Katelynn Mc Namara (4<sup>th</sup> Year), who both successfully represented Ireland in the International Karate Union European Championships in Russia recently.

**Student Achievements – Young Scientists' Exhibition:**

The following students submitted entries in the National Young Scientists' Competition in September / October:

1<sup>st</sup> Year: Ellen Cleaver; Cassie Cullen; Mary Lawler; Leah Mc Guckian / Freya Scully (Joint Project) and Hendrik Steyn.

4<sup>th</sup> Year: Mary Akinsete; Annie Howard and Ciara Mc Guckian.

Well done to all who entered and their teachers, Ms. Murphy and Ms. Searing.

Cassie's entry titled: The Ability of Different Indigestion Tablets and Traditional Remedies to Neutralise Stomach Acid won through to the final competition, in the Chemical, Physical and Mathematical Sciences category. Cassie's work will be on display in the R.D.S. in January.

All 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Years will attend the Young Scientists' Exhibition on Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Student Leadership:**

Recently, Jayne Redmond and Alex Mahon (both 6<sup>th</sup> Years) were appointed as Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl respectively.

We have, also, appointed a Student Voice Forum, under the Joint Chairmanship of Tianna Bowens and Jennifer Hickey (both 6<sup>th</sup> Years). They are joined on the Forum by other 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year students – Ciara Downey, Ronan Moore, Evan Mc Aleer, Chloe Holman, Rachel Kenny, Colm Fennelly, Billy Farrell and Paige Johnson.

The first two items on the agenda for the Student Voice Forum are devising a draft Mobile Phone Policy and making observations about Effective Teaching and Learning – How to Improve the Learner Experience.

### **Team Teaching:**

This week, in Business, English and German, we have introduced Team Teaching. This involves two teachers planning lessons and working together in the same classroom to teach students. It helps students to engage more deeply in the lesson, to ask questions and to get support in their learning. As such, it should improve student outcomes and results.

### **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.

### **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.**

### **School Fees:**

As you are aware, Coláiste Lorcáin **does not** ask parents / guardians for financial contributions to assist school administration.

Students are expected to pay **€10** for the school diary.

Students are expected to pay **€10** towards the cost of photocopying.

Students are expected to pay **€10** towards the cost of school buses to matches, talks and events.

The school annually subscribes to a 24 hour 365 day a year ***student insurance scheme***. The fee involved is **€10 per student**.

Students are expected to pay **€10** for the use of a school locker.

School records indicate that we have received no payment to date from some parents / guardians. We would appreciate it if those parents would pay, in full or in part, the above sum(s) as soon as possible. Non-payment will impact on our ability to allow their children play on school teams, have the use of a school locker, etc. It is, also, unfair on the many parents who pay.

### **Retirement:**

A former student here and a long serving teacher, Mr. Wall retired from teaching at the mid term break. We thank Mr. Wall for his contribution to the school and the community throughout his professional life and we wish him good health and happiness in the future.

### **School Uniform:**

Please note that at all times students are expected to wear the full school uniform as described in the student Code of Behaviour.

**Some students occasionally fall into bad habits. We would like to ask parents / guardians to check before students leave their home that the uniform provisions of the student Code of Behaviour are adhered to at all times.**

### **Christmas / December Exams:**

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Year students will sit Christmas Exams from 17<sup>th</sup> until 19<sup>th</sup> December. Copies of the exam timetable will shortly be available on the school website – [www.colaistelorcain.com](http://www.colaistelorcain.com). Their Year Heads will give

students a hard copy of the timetable in a few weeks. 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.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year Grinds / Block Classes:**

3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year students will attend two hour “Grinds / Block Classes” in their examination subjects from 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> December. Their Year Heads will give students a hard copy of the timetable for these intensive lessons in a few weeks. It is important that students participate in these classes, as they will help prepare them more fully for the state examinations next June.

### **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, basketball and rugby. 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 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](http://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.

### **Staff Training / Inservice:**

**As part of the reform of Junior Cycle, teachers are required to attend two days of training – Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup> next. Please note that there will be No School for Students on those dates.**

### **Parents’ Council 2018 – 2019**

We are keen to work with a vibrant Parents’ Council in the school this year and we would like to ask you to consider joining the Parent’s Council. Please note that the main goals of a Parents’ Council are:  
to inform the parents / guardians about the work of the school;  
to involve parents / guardians in the work of the school;

to support the role of parents / guardians as the primary educators.

Normal meetings are held, on average, once a month during the school year. The Principal and / or the Deputy Principal as well as Ms. Griffith normally attend meetings. They are a valued opportunity for an exchange of views on how to best to respond to situations that arise in the school. Parents / guardians are consulted and school policy is explained. When school policies are being considered and / or reviewed, the views of the membership of the Council are sought and incorporated into draft policies that go before the Board of Management for consideration.

Members of the Parents' Council, sometimes, assist in the organisation of various activities, such as parents' evenings, social events, graduation, etc.

**The next scheduled meeting of the Parents' Council is at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Kildare Comhairle na nOg:**

Kildare Comhairle na nOg held its AGM in the Westgrove Hotel, Clane on Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> last. The Comhairle na nOg AGM brings together young people from throughout the county to identify and work on issues important to them. This year's meeting focused on the issue of Young People's Mental Health. Our school was represented by 5 4<sup>th</sup> Year students: Peig Corrigan; Clive Dennis; Cliona Kavanagh; Aaron Treacy and Bernard Troy Muldoon.

**Transition Year Trip to Poland:**

Final arrangements are being made at present for the Transition Year Students trip to Krakow, Poland in February 2019. Over the course of the three night, four day trip, 4<sup>th</sup> Year students will have a guided tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau; visit the Wieliczka Salt Mine and go to Schindler's Museum.

**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.

**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](mailto:info@colaistelorcain.com))*

**Upcoming Events November / December 2018:**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November:** 4.15 p.m. – 6.45 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Year Parent Teacher Meeting.

- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November:** **6th year Information Evening re: Leaving Cert. 2019 & (Career) Guidance Presentation 7.00 – 8.30 p.m.**
- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November:** 4.15 p.m. – 6.45 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup> Year Parent Teacher Meeting.
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November:** 4.15 p.m. – 6.45 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Parent Teacher Meeting.
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December:** Staff Meeting / School Development (4.00 – 6.00 p.m.)
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December:** **No School**
- Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December:** **Exams for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Years Grinds Type Classes for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Years**

**We look forward to your continued co-operation and support for the school and our staff for the rest of 2018 and in 2019, as well.**

Yours sincerely,

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

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A. Wafer,  
Deputy Principal.