



# Colaiste Lorcain

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Diseart Diarmada  
Castledermot  
Co. Chill Dara  
Co. Kildare

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

**Dear Parent / Guardian,**

As we begin a new and hopefully another successful school year, we wish to draw a number of issues to your attention.

## **Leaving Cert. Results:**

We are delighted to report that, once again, our Leaving Cert. students did very well in their exams, with many of them surpassing their own expectations. Notably, the last three years have seen increases in the number of students achieving above 500 points and above 400 points; an increase in the average points achieved by our students and an increase in the number of students sitting Higher Level papers and better results for the more academically challenged students. We would like to congratulate the students involved and wish them all the best in their future studies and careers. Also, we would like to thank all the teachers who worked hard with last year's Leaving Cert. classes. A very enjoyable and successful Debs. Ball was held on August 28<sup>th</sup> last in Swords.

## **Enrolment of Incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Years for September 2020:**

In the coming weeks, visits will be made to 6<sup>th</sup> class students informing them about the subjects and facilities on offer in this school. They will be given information on subjects and an invitation to attend, with their parents / guardians, the Incoming *1<sup>st</sup> Years' Parents' Evening Presentation and the School Open Night on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October (6.00 – 9.00 p.m.)*.

All prospective students and their families are invited to attend and look at the facilities on offer, as well as speak to the teachers present. We look forward to meeting the 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils and their parents / guardians on the above dates.

### **Late Opening due to Traffic Congestion during the National Ploughing Championships:**

The National Ploughing championships take place in Carlow from Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> inclusive. As it is anticipated that there will be heavy traffic coming through Castledermot, we have agreed, in consultation with the Gardai, to begin school at 11.05 on the three dates above. The school year is short enough and we do not want to lose three days teaching. Please ensure that your son(s) / daughter(s) are in school no later than 11.05 on these dates. School will end at the normal time (3.55 p.m.).

### **Enrolment 2019 – 2020:**

There are 410 students enrolled in this school year. This large number of students makes the need for cooperation, order and structure even more important. Students will continuously be made aware of their responsibilities and are expected to follow the instructions of all staff at all times.

### **Junior Cert. Results:**

The Junior Certificate results will be issued to the school later this month – the date has not yet been notified to schools. We have every expectation that students will, again, achieve very high grades.

### **School Uniform:**

Since the recent school re-opening, the school uniform has been praised by students, staff, parents / guardians and visitors. It is great to see our students looking so well and taking pride in their school uniform. Long may that continue!

The new tracksuit bottoms, with the school crest, looks very well. All students are expected to wear these tracksuit bottoms on the day they have P.E. There are a small number of students who are in the incorrect uniform. The students involved have been advised by their Year Heads to purchase and wear the correct uniform. Your support in this matter would be appreciated.

### **New Junior Cycle:**

The current 1<sup>st</sup> Years are doing the complete New Junior Cycle, while the present 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Years are sitting the Junior Cert. in some subjects and the New Junior Cycle in others. The attached sheets explain some of the assessment arrangements for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Years.

There are two additional days training for teachers this year. Therefore, the school will be closed to students on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Student Wellbeing:**

As well as preparing students for examinations, teachers try to support our pupils in giving appropriate information and advice about lifestyle issues. One of the key issues addressed with 1<sup>st</sup> Years is the need for proper rest and relaxation after a long school day. On school nights, we believe that they should be in bed no later than 10 p.m. and maybe earlier. Over time, other issues may arise with older students. Please note that we remain available to provide advice and support if requested to do so.

**Supervision:**

On behalf of the Board of Management / Kildare Wicklow E.T.B., we would like to advise all parents / guardians and students that, while the school buildings are opened at 08.00 approximately, supervision of students does not begin until 08.40 and lasts until 08.55. There is, also, supervision of students during breaktime (11.05 – 11.20) and during lunchtime (13.20 – 13.55).

Also, please note that, on the advice of the insurance industry, ***all*** school trips that depart from the school will return back to the school. In effect, this means that students will not be allowed to get off a bus (on its return journey from a match, theatre, etc.), at any point other than the school. While this may be inconvenient for some, it is best practice for the school and enables us to fulfil our “duty of care” obligations.

**Breaktime / Lunchtime:**

As in previous years, students are not allowed to leave the school during the morning break. A small number of students have written permission to go home (nowhere else) at lunchtime, returning no earlier than 1.45. As such, they are the responsibility of parents / guardians when they leave the school. With school and parental permission, 6<sup>th</sup> Year students only are allowed leave the school at lunchtime. They are expected to go home or go to the local shop to purchase lunch. They are not permitted to loiter around the streets / outside local shops / businesses nor are they allowed to cause any disturbance that interrupts members of the public or business people. It is important that students who leave the premises return on time and that they behave in a respectful manner on the way to and from the school. Any breaches of these arrangements may result

in the withdrawal of this privilege for individual students and / or all year groups.

**Smoking in Uniform:**

Please note that the Student Code of Behaviour for 2019 – 2020 specifically states “Smoking on the school premises, grounds, in school uniform and / or in the vicinity of the school and on all school outings” is forbidden. This includes vaping and other similar activities.

**Sports Day:**

The Annual Sports Day will take place on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. All students are encouraged to participate fully in all the events and to develop a real sense of teamwork and community in the school.

**Student Absenteeism:**

Please note that **all** absences from school should be explained by writing a note to the Year Head / Deputy Principal / Principal.

**Parents’ Council:**

Parents / guardians who wish to join the Parents’ Council are welcome to do so. The Parents’ Council is a great source of support in providing links between teachers, parents / guardians and pupils. We would encourage all parents / guardians, particularly new parents / guardians, to become involved and to attend this year’s A.G.M. and to become members of the Parents’ Council.

***The next meeting will take place on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7.00 p.m. All parents / guardians are invited to attend this meeting.***

**Contacting the School Office:**

The 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. ***Given that our school office can be very busy, it may be helpful to email the school ([info@colaistelorcain.com](mailto:info@colaistelorcain.com)).***

**Transition Year:**

We have a very busy line-up of events scheduled for Transition Year students. While they will go to Rome in February a highlight of their year, later this

month, they will attend the National Ploughing Championships (September 17<sup>th</sup>). On September 19<sup>th</sup>, they will go to Glendalough and stay overnight until Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup> – where over the two days they will do a 20 km hike.

### **School Trip to Rome:**

As stated above, Transition Years will go to Rome on February 2<sup>nd</sup> – February 5<sup>th</sup> next. Students who went straight from 3<sup>rd</sup> Year and into the current 5<sup>th</sup> Year may, also, go on the Rome trip (Cost €560). Further details are available from the school office.

### **Supervised Study:**

Please note that “Supervised Study” begins on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> next. Study runs from Mondays to Thursday inclusive (4.15 – 6.15 p.m.). Students who wish to participate should get a form from the school office and return it to their Year Head or the school office.

### **Making the Most of School Life:**

The attached document, “Guidelines for All Students”, should be read and the regulations / advice included noted by students and their parents / guardians.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Friday September 27<sup>th</sup>:**

Sports Day

**Monday September 30<sup>h</sup>:**

School Closed

**Wednesday October 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

**Open Night for Prospective  
1<sup>st</sup> Years 2019 (18:00 –  
21:00) Presentation at 7.00  
p.m.**

***Monday October 28<sup>th</sup> – Friday November 1<sup>st</sup>:***

***Mid – term Break***

**The school has a busy year ahead and we look forward to your continued co-operation and support for the school and our staff.**

Yours sincerely,

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

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A. Wafer,  
Deputy Principal.