



Coláiste Lorcáin

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Diseart Diarmada
Castledermot
Co. Chill Dara
Co. Kildare

29th April 2019

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

Student Achievements:

We would like to warmly congratulate the school's Basketball teams who have enjoyed great success this year. Well done to Ms. Doyle, Jim Connolly and all the players. **The 2nd Year Boys' Team is playing in the All Ireland Final at 1.30 p.m. in the National Basketball Arena, Tallaght on Wednesday, May 1st. We wish them every success.**

Supervised Study:

All students can now attend after school supervised study at the following times: Monday to Thursday – 4.15 – 6.15 p.m. Interested students should speak to Mr. Gaughran or Joanne in the School Office if they would like to join.

Enrolment of New 1st Year Students for September 2019:

Currently, we have over 60 students enrolled in 1st Year for next September. On Thursday, August 22nd, all 1st Year students are invited to a workshop here in the school from 9.00 to 11.30 a.m., where we will give them their timetables, lockers, etc. and help familiarise them with school life.

Visits to National Schools:

Either the Deputy Principal or Principal will visit our feeder national schools in May or June. The purpose of these visits is to speak to the 6th class teachers and school principal(s) to gather relevant information to enable us to assign these students to classes and help them settle into secondary school next September.

Website

Throughout this school year, the school's website has been used to post notices and information to the school community. Please feel free to look at our website and provide feedback / suggest improvements. The school's current website address is www.colaistelorcain.com.

Enrolment for Transition Year - for September 2019:

There was an Information Evening for prospective 4th Year / Transition Year students and their parents / guardians in late February. Offers of places for Transition Year 2019 – 2020 were made just before the Easter break. There is a cost of €450 to meet some of the costs of the Transition Year Programme. The school expects parents / guardians to pay a minimum of €250 before May 31st and the remaining €200 balance no later than August 30th next. *The last page of this Newsletter lists some of the events / trips and activities this year's 4th Years enjoyed outside the classroom.* These events cost money and the list does not include school expenditure on Student insurance (24 hour 365 days a year), photocopying, school journal and unlimited use of chrome books for 4th Years.

Enrolment for Senior Cycle - for September 2019:

There was an Information Evening for prospective 5th Year Senior Cycle students and their parents / guardians in late February. All forms relating to Application / Enrolment, Subject Options, etc. were given out on the night itself.

The students chose from 16 optional subjects. There was a genuinely free choice, which was then used to generate subject option lines. The students' optional subjects were communicated to them before Easter. The 5th Year Option lines for 2019 – 2020 are as follows:

Option 1. Business / Engineering / French / German

Option 2. Art / Biology / D.C.G. / Physics

Option 3. Biology / Construction Studies / History / Music

Option 4. Ag. Science / Chemistry / Geography / Home Economics

Please note that changes will be permitted until September 2019, should a change be requested and space be available.

The vast majority of students (over 90%) have been placed in accordance with their preferences. These optional subjects are in addition to Irish, English, Maths, Religion and P.E.

School Traffic:

With up to 450 people entering the school daily, there are often concerns expressed about the entry of vehicles onto the main school premises. If at all possible, we would like to ask parents / guardians not to drive into the school between 8.45 – 9.00 a.m. and 3.45 – 4.10 daily. Student safety is our paramount concern and we would appreciate your cooperation with the above request.

School Costs:

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.

All parents / guardians are expected to pay the above sum of money before the start of each school year.

Student Attendance (Absenteeism) / National Education Welfare Board Report:

Under legislation, the school principal is obliged to notify the N.E.W.B. when students miss twenty days or more during the school year. A small number of students have been reported to TUSLA in the last few weeks. The school asks all parents / guardians to monitor closely their son / daughter's attendance record and ensure that absences are genuine, unavoidable and always explained in a written note to the relevant Year Head.

Compared with national figures, this school has a low absenteeism rate; however, we would like to keep this figure as low as possible and to ask parents / guardians' support in ensuring that all absences are genuine and unavoidable. If a student is out, he / she can't learn!

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 students' journals. We would, again, like to ask parents / guardians to monitor these journals on a weekly basis.

Board of Management Matters:

The Board is reviewing its Child Protection procedures and Child Safeguarding Statement, in line with D.E.S. Procedures for schools. The Board has, also, invested in further improving the school's C.C.T.V. system. The Board will review the current Student Code of Behaviour in advance of the next school year.

Emmanuel Concert:

The annual Emmanuel Concert took place in the Helix Theatre, Dublin on February 27th last. Our school has a notable history of involvement in this concert where students display their considerable musical talent. Led by Ms. Murphy, four of our students – Orla James; Kayla Kissane; Caitlin O'Neill and Jordan O'Neill - were chosen to participate as soloists. The school choir, also, took part. They performed brilliantly and we congratulate them all.

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.

Lunch Menu:

We are mindful of our limited responsibility to students in relation to food and diet. The primary role in these matters lies with the family. We have reviewed our lunch menu and are encouraging students to eat a balanced and healthy diet.

School Uniform:

We would like to emphasise the importance of students wearing their uniform fully and properly for the remaining weeks of the school term. While the weather may be warmer, we, and all school staff, still expect all students to wear the full uniform both within and outside the classroom.

For the 2019 – 2020 school year, all students will be expected to wear the official school tracksuit bottoms, with the school crest on the upper left thigh, available from Kaideen Knitwear.

Parents’ Council 2018 – 2019:

We would like to thank those parents who joined the Parents’ Council this year and who supported the work of the school.

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.

School Books – Booklist 2019 – 2020:

The school Booklist (2019 – 2020) was finalised earlier this year. A booklist and an equipment list will be posted to parents / guardians of current 1st, 2nd and 5th Years in June, with the school report.

Student Attendance and Punctuality:

Please note that all students are expected to be in school every day from 8.55 a.m. until the end of the last class. Rarely should students come to school late, but those who do are expected to have a note explaining why they are late and they are expected to sign in with their Year Head. All absences, late comings and / or early departures should be explained by parents / guardians in writing.

End of Term Awards Ceremonies:

On Thursday May 9th, the school’s teaching staff will finalise the list of nominees and winners of our various Student Awards for this school year. On Wednesday, May 22nd, each year group will have their end of year awards ceremonies. These ceremonies will enable us to recognise and celebrate the many achievements of the students in the school.

Junior and Leaving Certificate Examinations 2019:

We would like to extend best wishes to all our 3rd and 6th year students who will sit their state examinations, beginning on Wednesday 5th June.

In the meantime, there are a number of practical exams scheduled to take place between now and May 10th. Where known, the timetable for these exams has been given to the students already.

It remains school policy that students wear their full school uniform in these exams and we will again enforce this policy. Students remain subject to school rules throughout these examinations and we expect that

students co-operate with us at all times during these stressful weeks. As indicated to students, it is our firm belief that all students should remain in the examination centre until the end of each exam. Furthermore, we would like to take this opportunity to remind students that they should answer exam papers in full and stay for the duration of every exam. If they don't answer the questions, they can't get any marks!

We, also, want to take this opportunity to remind students that, with continued hard work, they should do very well.

Extra Classes:

We would like to acknowledge and thank those teachers who have been taking exam students for extra classes over recent weeks and who will do so in the run up to June 6th.

Leaving Cert. Graduation Mass:

The Leaving Certificate Graduation Mass, to which our current 6th Years and their families are invited, will take place on Thursday May 23rd at 7.30 p.m. After Mass, there will be a celebration, where refreshments – food and tea / coffee – will be served. All 6th Years and their families, as well as school staff, are invited to both the Mass and the celebration afterwards.

Transition Year Graduation:

The Transition Year Graduation Ceremony will take place on Monday, May 27th at 7.30 p.m. All 4th Years and their families, as well as school staff, are invited to the celebrations and the reception afterwards.

End of Year Arrangements for all Students:

During the last week of the school year, *1st, 2nd & 5th year students will be required to sit exams*. These exams are an important indicator for students, their parents / guardians and their teachers of the progress and achievements made in each subject over the past year and are informative pointers of the students' ability, work rate and potential for the next school year. It is important that all the students involved study and revise for these exams, attend each and every exam and do their best in these exams.

Meanwhile, *there will be “grinds type classes” for our 3rd and 6th year students in their examination subjects*. These classes will be important final lessons on exam content, method and requirements from the teachers who will prepare extra material for students to read, understand

and learn. The exam timetable and “grinds” timetable will be given to students in early May. A copy of both timetables will be posted on the school website and a copy given to each student.

We would like to remind all students of the importance of ensuring that their behaviour is of the highest possible standards and that they have full attendance until the end of term and ask for the help of parents / guardians to ensure that, both homework and revision is properly done and exams are sat in the right spirit.

School Trips:

There will be some school trips for certain year groups before the end of the year. Parents / guardians will be notified in writing of the dates, costs, etc. We trust and hope that all students involved enjoy the trips and we wish to thank the teachers who will accompany them.

Calendar 2019 – 2020:

Please find enclosed a copy of the 2019 – 2020 school calendar. You may be interested to note the following start up details for the 2018 – 2019 academic year: Incoming 1st Years students will report to school on **Thursday, August 22nd**. 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year Students will return on Monday, August 26th. Students in all Year Groups will be expected to attend on **Tuesday, August 27th**.

Key Dates to Note for Rest of Current School Year:

Monday May 6th:	School Closed / Bank Holiday
Thursday May 9th:	Staff Meeting (4:00 – 6:00)
Wednesday May 22nd:	School Awards
Thursday May 23rd:	6 th Year Graduation
Monday May 27th:	Transition Year Graduation
Monday May 27th:	Summer Exams start for 5 th Years
Tuesday May 28th:	Summer Exams start for 1 st and 2 nd Years
Friday May 31st:	School finishes for Summer Holidays.

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

Yours sincerely,

E. Gaughran,
Principal.

A. Wafer,
Deputy Principal.

Colaiste Lorcaín Transition Year Events Calendar 2018 – 2019

Monday, August 27th:	1 st Day of School Year
Wednesday, September 12th:	Junior Cert. Results Issued
Thursday, September 13th:	Trip to Tramore / Surfing
Monday, September 17th:	Golf / Tennis
Friday, September 28th:	Sports Day
Monday, October 1st:	Golf / Tennis
Monday, October 8th:	Dragon Boat Racing
Monday, October 15th:	Golf / Tennis
Monday, October 22nd:	Golf / Tennis
Thursday, October 25th:	English Play / Drama
Monday, November 5th:	Tennis
Thursday, November 8th:	Swimming
Monday, November 12th:	Meggars
Thursday, November 15th:	Swimming
Thursday, November 22nd:	GAA Coaching
Thursday, November 22nd:	DES Maths' Inspection
Thursday, November 29th:	GAA Coaching
Thursday, December 6th:	Swimming
Friday, December 7th:	Movember & TY Christmas Fair
Tuesday, December 11th:	Dundrum Shopping & Ice Skating
Wednesday, December 12th:	TY Law Programme
Thursday, December 13th:	TY Law Programme
Monday, January 7th:	Taekwondo
Thursday, January 10th:	Young Scientists' Exhibition
Monday, January 14th:	Taekwondo
Monday, January 21st:	Taekwondo
Thursday, January 24th:	TY Poland Trip Parents' Meeting
Saturday, 2nd Feb. – Tuesday, 5th Feb.:	TY Trip to Krakow, Poland
Tuesday, February 26th:	Information Evening re: 5 th Year
Wednesday, February 27th:	<i>Parent Teacher Meeting</i>
Monday, March 4th:	Kayaking
Friday, March 8th:	Mini-Company, Naas
Monday, March 11th:	Kayaking
Friday, March 15th:	Ceili
Tuesday, March 19th:	Kayaking
Monday, March 25th:	Trip to Glendalough
Thursday, March 28th:	Meggars
Monday, April 8th:	Zumba
Tuesday, April 2nd:	First Aid Course
Friday, April 5th:	Trip to National Concert Hall
Monday, April 29th:	Meggars
Tuesday, April 30th:	Driving Theory & Practice
Friday, May 10th:	SCIFEST
Monday, May 13th:	Meggars
Thursday, May 16th:	History Trip to Glasnevin Cemetery
Friday, May 17th:	Law Finals - Galway
Monday, May 20th:	Inter Schools' Meggars
Monday, May 27th:	Transition Year Graduation